

## Turkey rejects U.N. plea to open borders to Iraqi refugees

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey on Saturday rejected a U.N. appeal to leave open its borders for refugees fleeing possible military strikes against Iraq. Instead Turkey says it is ready to send thousands of troops across the frontier to prevent any influx of Kurdish refugees. "It is impossible for us to let them in," Deputy Premier Bulent Ecevit was quoted as saying by the Anatolia news agency. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees last week asked countries bordering Iraq not to slam the door on refugees seeking aid. "But there is no need to concern. Turkey has the capability to protect them just across its borders," Mr. Ecevit said. Jordan, Iran and Turkey fear they may again have to deal with huge waves of refugees, as they did during the 1990 Arabian Gulf crisis and 1991 Gulf war.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

## U.S. plans call for four days of bombing Iraq — report

WASHINGTON (APF) — The U.S. military aims to bomb Iraq around the clock for four days if raids go ahead, the New York Times reported Saturday, citing top U.S. government officials. Senior U.S. officials told the newspaper they feared that earlier plans calling for several weeks of bombing would not force Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to allow unrestricted weapons inspections. The new plans are aimed at crippling Iraq's military and diminishing its ability to use and produce biological and chemical weapons, the paper reported. The officials said the United States would focus on hitting production sites, conventional forces and President Hussein's power structure because it cannot tell exactly where the Iraqi long-range missiles and chemical and biological weapons are being kept. Top U.S. officials also believe that President Hussein's conventional military is so weak it cannot threaten any neighbouring countries.

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## Ma'an riots continue

# King warns Jordan will not tolerate instigation of violence

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday said that Jordan will not tolerate anyone who instigates riots and calls for violence in any part of the country.

"There were elements of sedition and trouble and there were some who instigated disturbances," the King told soldiers near the city of Ma'an, where riots continued yesterday following the death of a 22-year-old man on Friday.

"These actions cannot be tolerated," the King, who visited the city and met with its notables, said.

"In my talks to senators and deputies in Ma'an, I told them that this was a shameful act, especially coming from Ma'an, which was the town where the Kingdom was founded."

the King said. "Everyone who tries to stir trouble and riots in this country is contributing to the implementation of conspiracies [against Jordan]," the King added.

"Tribal leaders are not able to control some of the people who carry machine-guns. This is the third time. Not the first or the second. This means if a seed of evil is spread it will cause us great deal of trouble," the King said.

"We are telling the people that we live in a democracy in which people can talk to one another and understand each other in a free atmosphere," the King said.

"We hope the time will come when we do not have any troublemakers and malicious or ungrateful

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein talks to soldiers on the outskirts of the southern city of Ma'an on Saturday (Photo by Yousef Allan)

## King: In my talks to senators and deputies from Ma'an, I told them that this was a shameful act

Following are major excerpts from His Majesty King Hussein's address to army troops in the south on Saturday:

I BELIEVE you are aware of the recent incidents in Ma'an where there were elements of sedition and trouble and there were some who instigated disturbances. These actions cannot be tolerated. In my talks to senators and deputies from Ma'an, I told them that this was a shameful act, especially coming from Ma'an, the town where the Kingdom was founded. The people of Ma'an are my family and folks. God only knows how hard we worked to turn this country into a model for others and in order to advance under very critical circumstances.

Looking around us, we are not pleased with what we see. This is our destiny. For Palestine, we have offered more sacrifices than others. As for Iraq, we have offered more than any other. Day and night our only concern is about Iraq and we are trying to ward off any military strike. I told the Iraqi Foreign Minister [Mohammed Said Al Sahhaf] in Amman: "You have broken our back. If you listened to our advice since

1990 you would not have been in this crisis now."

We are concerned about the Iraqis, the pictures of the children and the dead. These are the pictures of the people of Iraq and we are doing our best. International organisations are telling us that should a military strike occur Jordan will be expecting a wave of half a million people coming from Iraq.

Remember the events of 1991 and how much we endured and how many sacrifices we offered.

On the western side of the river, if anything happens there, the remaining Palestinian people will come to Jordan, which will then be considered a substitute homeland for the Palestinians, and Jordan will be finished. Anyone who tries to stir trouble and riots in this country is contributing to the implementation of these conspiracies. This country is dear to us. Your officers will be briefing you on what is happening so far. In this city, tribal leaders are not able to control some of the people who carry machine-guns. This is the third time, not the first nor the second.

(Continued on page 7)

## Prince Hassan back home after talks with French, British officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday returned to Amman following visits to Britain and France during which he discussed with British and French officials diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful solution to the U.N.-Iraq crisis.

In statements to journalists upon his return, Prince Hassan, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, expressed hope that U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan will reach a diplomatic solution to the crisis and restore stability in the region.

Prince Hassan said that the U.N.-Iraq crisis is an international one and that there is general consensus that all that has been agreed upon must be respected.

The Crown Prince said there were signs of optimism, and concentration on the human dimension, such as the increase in the amount of oil which Iraq can sell to buy medicine and food.

"I met with Arab ambassadors in Paris and I've had telephone calls from Arab officials who expressed their support for the attempts being made by the secretary general. We have done everything our duty demands us to do as a country neighbouring Iraq and as an Arab country," the Crown Prince said.

He said that Jordan has been doing everything possible to contain the crisis and to end the suffering of the Iraqi people and bring about stability to the region.

While in Paris, Prince Hassan held talks with French President Jacques Chirac and stressed that a peaceful solution to the crisis must be found in order to save Iraq and the whole region the catastrophic consequences of a new military confrontation.

The Crown Prince's talks with President Chirac represented what one official described as concerted Jordanian contacts with world leaders able to influence the

course of events in the U.N.-Iraq crisis at this sensitive and critical stage in the standoff.

Prince Hassan also held talks with Mr. Annan on efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the standoff over weapons inspections and save the whole region the disastrous consequences of a military option.

The Crown Prince was briefed by Mr. Annan on his last-ditch mission to Baghdad.

In London, Prince Hassan held talks with British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook. During his talks, Prince Hassan called on Iraq to implement all relevant U.N. resolutions and underlined the need for ending the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Both Prince Hassan and Mr. Cook emphasised the need to exert all possible efforts to put the peace process back on track in order to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace that guarantees the right of all parties.

## Sharon expected in Amman today for talks on water, JRV projects Mulki to meet Sharansky tomorrow

By Alia A. Toukan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin is expected to hold talks today with Israel's minister of infrastructure, Ariel Sharon, on bilateral relations and joint projects, officials said.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali may meet with Mr. Sharon, one official source told the Jordan Times. There was no official confirmation, however,

of whether His Majesty King Hussein would be meeting Mr. Sharon.

Some officials said, however, that pro-Iraqi riots in Ma'an might lead to the cancellation of the visit, amid heightened tension in the region due to the Iraq-U.S. standoff over weapons inspections.

One source indicated that Mr. Sharon may cancel the trip if he is not assured of a high-profile visit with sufficient coverage, a wish the Jordanians might be reluctant to comply with due to internal and regional pressures.

The scheduled meeting between Mr. Haddadin and Mr. Sharon serves as a follow-up to talks held between the two officials in Israel on Wednesday.

"The talks between Mr. Haddadin and Mr. Sharon will be a continuation of discussions held between them last week on water and Jordan Rift Valley (JRV) projects," an official told the Jordan Times on Saturday.

Israel's minister of trade and industry, Natan

(Continued on page 7)

## After talks with Aziz, Annan says he is 'rather optimistic'

Combined agency dispatches

IN A mission to avert a military strike, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan held two rounds of talks Saturday with Iraqi officials. He said he was "rather optimistic" he would win an agreement to open all suspected weapons sites.

Mr. Annan, who arrived in the Iraqi capital Friday, said he was hopeful he would meet Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, likely Sunday.

Scheduling such a meeting would be a clear sign that Iraq was prepared to accept an agreement to open eight presidential sites to U.N. weapons inspectors. Mr. Annan said he expected the Iraqis would accept a written document outlining terms of the agreement, which would then have to be endorsed by the United States.

"I expect to get a document," Mr. Annan said after the talks in the morning. "I am rather optimistic."

Mr. Annan began his official meetings at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. Half of the three-hour session was devoted to a private meeting between Mr. Annan and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister



Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz and U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan hold formal talks Saturday on Iraq's row with the United Nations (Reuters photo)

ter Tareq Aziz. Afterward, the full delegations — nine Iraqis and eight U.N. officials — met for another 90 minutes at the Foreign Ministry and then resumed their talks in the evening.

Following a dinner break, delegations headed by Mr. Aziz and Mr. Annan were scheduled to hold a third round of talks, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

A diplomat who attended the meeting said Mr. Annan had said he had brought a

"package" with him and would take a package back.

It would have to include two key elements: full compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions and no dilution of the role of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM), charged with scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Before his talks with Mr. Aziz, Mr. Annan met Russian special envoy to Baghdad, Viktor Posuvalyuk, who has spent several weeks here trying to work

out a formula to resolve the crisis.

Mr. Annan's optimism came after a member of the U.N. delegation, former Algerian foreign minister, Lakhdar Brahimi, told reporters that the situation was "extremely polarised."

At issue are Security Council demands that Iraq allow U.N. inspectors unrestricted access to all areas, including eight presidential sites which Baghdad has placed off-limits.

(Continued on page 3)

## U.N. has no food reserves in Iraq if war disrupts supplies

BAGHDAD (AP) — The United Nations has no reserve stocks to feed the 22 million Iraqis if military action in the Gulf disrupts the flow of humanitarian supplies to Iraq, a senior U.N. official said Saturday.

About 3.5 million Iraqi Kurds in northern Iraq are totally reliant on food supplies reaching the country under the so-called oil-for-food deal, Denis Halliday, U.N. relief coordinator for Iraq, said.

The government could draw on its own stocks for the central and southern parts of Iraq but even that, according to a U.N. report released recently, will not be enough to cover urgent needs.

"The oil-for-food programme does not have a reserve stock. We are reliant on incoming grain and other supplies every month. So that is certainly a concern and I do not have an answer to that," Mr. Halliday told reporters in Baghdad.

No official figures are available on domestic food production, but the U.N.

## Forcibly ousting Saddam from power seen as risky long shot

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright says that eventually "biology will work" and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein will be gone. But if U.S. President Bill Clinton is unwilling to wait, there are at least two other ways, short of assassination, that he might try to remove the Iraqi president from power.

One is to encourage a military coup, the other is to help a political opposition group set up a new provisional government. Both seem long shots, and the Clinton administration appears to share the doubts of some of Iraq's neighbours that replacing President Hussein would mean a more stable Middle East.

At an appearance in Nashville, Tennessee, on Thursday, Ms. Albright said Mr. Clinton is content, for now, to keep President Hussein "in his box" without undertaking the enormous risk of sending U.S. ground forces to try to topple him.

"Ultimately, biology will work and he will disappear," she said. Assassination of a foreign leader is prohibited by presidential order, so trying to remove the Iraqi president by force of arms would mean occupying the coun-

try by seizing control of Baghdad, defeating the Republican Guard troops who sustain President Hussein and then safeguarding a new government.

"It's just not in the cards," said Harry Summers, a retired army colonel. He says the stakes are not high enough to win U.S. public approval for an invasion of Iraq that would cost many lives — military and civilian.

Mr. Clinton has ruled out the option. "I don't believe we need to get into a direct war with Iraq over the leadership of the country," he said recently.

Like former U.S. President George Bush in 1991, Mr. Clinton does not believe the American public would stand for having an American army of occupa-

tion in Iraq for as long as it might take to put a crippled country back on a solid political footing. Nor does he believe other Arab countries would accept it.

Still, it appeared from questions asked of Mr. Clinton's top foreign policy advisers at Ohio State University on Wednesday that some Americans are fed up with President Hussein's antics and wonder if there is not a way to eliminate him.

"Are we willing to send troops in and finish the job?" an emotion-charged veteran asked. In reply, U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen said the aim was to get U.N. inspectors

(Continued on page 7)

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هاتفنا الجديد

## Palestinian, Israeli officers destroy explosives seized in West Bank

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)** — A senior PNA security official Wednesday said Palestinian and Israeli officers last week blew up large quantities of explosives found in a West Bank factory used by Hamas.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the hundreds of kilograms of highly explosive material found in a factory in the West Bank town of Nablus were moved to an area outside Palestinian control and blown up by the two sides.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in Washington following Tuesday talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton, has set a PNA crackdown on militants as a precondition for a long-delayed troop pullback in the West Bank.

The PNA security official said Israeli and Palestinian security authorities had cooperated on the case of the Nablus-based factory. He said the explosion took place outside PNA-controlled areas, on West Bank land still under occupation.

A PNA military court this week sentenced to 15 years with hard labour two members of Hamas for preparing explosives used in the July and September Jerusalem suicide attacks which killed 21 Israelis.

An Israeli paramilitary border police officer identified as chief inspector Natan, commander of the West Bank bomb squad, told Israel Army Radio: "There was a flash of fire dozens of metres [high], the walls of the quarry collapsed, a boom was heard at a distance of several kilometres in the whole area."

"But as the boom was heard there was also heart-felt relief that everything went all right and that the sound was heard in the quarry and not somewhere else in the state of Israel," he said.

Another official, Tawfiq Al Tirawi, the PNA's West Bank intelligence chief, said he met with Israeli security officials on Tuesday night and discussed with them Israeli violations of interim peace deals.

## Amnesty condemns trial of two Hamas activists as 'flagrantly unfair'

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — Amnesty International (AI) on Wednesday released a statement condemning as flagrantly unfair the trial on Jan. 19 of two Hamas activists accused of having set up a bomb factory in Nablus.

Nasser Abu Al Rus and Jasser Salameh were tried within days of their arrest, in a summary trial before the State Security Court in Jericho. The trial was held before military judges, with a military prosecutor, under the PLO code of 1979 — up to now only used against members of the security services. The public were barred from the half-hour trial. The court appointed a military lawyer to represent the two defendants, and lawyers offering to represent the defendants were

not allowed into the court except to hear the sentences of 15 years imprisonment with hard labour, the statement read.

"No one can tell whether those arrested are guilty or innocent when they are tried in such a way," AI said. "These abuses undermine the judicial system and are a denial of justice."

The organisation also condemned the Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) prolonged detention without charge or trial of more than 150 suspected members of Islamist opposition groups. Some of these detainees have been held for more than a year while orders from the attorney general or the Palestinian High Court to release specific detainees against whom no charges had been

filed and no evidence produced have been ignored, the statement continued.

"After the Palestinian High Court ordered the immediate release, on grounds of unlawful detention, of Shaikh Mahmud Musleh, a Hamas activist, in December 1997, he was taken for a short walk and then brought back to prison. He was told that he had been rearrested. That makes a mockery of the law," AI said.

In the context of the peace accords, Israel has put increasing pressure on the PNA to "fulfil its commitments to fight terrorism" by, among other things, "the apprehension, prosecution and punishment of terrorists." The Israeli Government has used the issue of "terrorism" as an excuse

for allowing the Israeli General Security Service to use practices which constitute torture during interrogation and for holding over 300 Palestinians in administrative detention without trial.

"It is now time for the PNA and Israel to accept that a government's legitimate right to fight crime and violence can only be carried out with due respect for human rights," AI said. "The international community, particularly the United States, which is brokering Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, should also make it clear that they will not condone or encourage human rights abuses such as unfair trials, detention without trial and torture."



**PROPERTY CONFISCATION:** An Israeli policeman Wednesday escorts a Palestinian man away from trying to block an Israeli bulldozer from working on land he claims he owns near the West Bank town of Hebron. U.S. President Bill Clinton is meeting this week with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to determine how much land will be returned to the Palestinians in the next phase of the stalled peace process (AP photo)

## National unity lends support to Palestinian struggle — Regent

(Continued from page 1)

country and ensuring a decent living for all its citizens.

Prince Hassan recalled that his grandfather, the late King Abdullah, the founder of the Kingdom, used to describe the refugees as "people who took refuge in Jordan in order to participate and contribute to building the nation."

He called on the public to deal with national matters with clarity, openness and in an objective and realistic manner.

"Jordan's real concerns are poverty and unemployment, which the country is dealing with on a non-discriminatory basis because poverty does not differentiate between one group and another," said the Regent. Referring to the security aid package which Jordan adopted last year, he said this package is designed to combat poverty and unemployment among various

groups of the society and to lay the infrastructure for all regions of the Kingdom.

He noted that the strategy of the social security package is based on pure humanitarian considerations, and that it will deal with all people on equal terms "because one cannot divide people into two groups, one of whom will be the sole beneficiary."

He said the social security package will be implemented on two tracks: a long term track aiming at creating job opportunities and improving the infrastructure and a short term track aiming at providing financial aid to the needy people of Jordan.

Emphasising Jordan's firm stand regarding any settlement to the Palestinian refugee problem, Prince Hassan said: "There is no justification for any political concerns connected with the questions of settling [the refugees]." He said that there is consensus

on the right of the refugees to return, to receive compensation and to reject settlement in countries other than their own.

The Regent underlined the need for a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem, noting that the stalled peace process has created a state of anxiety and tension in the region.

Prince Hassan said: "Jordan constitutes the lung for the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Jordan will continue to enhance trade and economic cooperation with the Palestinians."

"The Palestinian imports from Israel amount to \$2.5 billion annually while Jordan's exports to Palestine amount to mere \$7 million," the Prince said, noting that lack of Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation can only serve Israel's interests.

Prince Hassan underlined Jordan's firm policy of maintaining strong cooperation and integration with all Arab countries, noting that Jordan's trade with the Arab World far exceeds that of any Arab country.

Stressing that Jordanians should deal with all issues as a single family and as partners in construction, Prince Hassan said that Jordanians should rely only on facts and the truth rather than rumours aimed at belittling the Kingdom's achievements.

Among those attending the iftar were representatives of Baqaa, Al Hussein, Madaba, Zarqa and Hiteen refugee camps who lined the streets to greet the Crown Prince.

In the dialogue that followed the Regent's speech, notable speakers reaffirmed allegiance to the country and King and thanked Prince Hassan for his visit. They also echoed his call for cohesion among members of the Jordanian family and for enhancing the national unity.

## Iraq wants freeze on inspections of sensitive sites

(Continued from page 1)

the only obstacle to lifting the embargo was this question of access to presidential and sovereign sites, then he and I could meet again in April to talk about it," Mr. Butler said.

He said he doubted the technical meetings would "produce the outcome that he [Aziz] had in mind."

Mr. Butler also said that if U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) inspectors asked him to authorise an attempt to inspect a presidential or sovereign site in the meantime, he would do so.

Mr. Butler left for the United States later on Wednesday after two days of hard and inconclusive talks. He will address the U.N. Security Council on Friday.

The long-running stand-

off between Iraq and the United Nations has threatened to develop into a fresh showdown between Baghdad and the West.

On Tuesday, the U.N. arms inspector described his discussions in Baghdad as "quite direct, quite blunt," and said Iraq had told him it had no fresh information to give him on its weapons of mass destruction.

Neither had it elaborated on a threat by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to set a six-month deadline for the inspectors to wrap up their work.

Earlier in the day he said the dispute could not drag on indefinitely and added: "I don't think this play has many acts left."

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin on Tuesday reiterated the long-held U.S. view that military action

against Iraq "is not ruled out."

"And when and if the time comes, we are confident that those... whose assistance we need and whose support we have seen in the past will be with us," he added.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen said on Wednesday the United States wanted a diplomatic solution but was determined not to allow Baghdad to threaten its neighbours with biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

In a speech to sailors and air crew on the U.S. aircraft carrier Independence in Japan, as it prepared to head for the Gulf, Mr. Cohen said they were to become part of a major U.S. force that would pressure President Hussein into complying with weapons inspections. "We are determined to

make sure that he is not going to have the capacity to threaten his neighbours, to threaten Kuwait, to threaten Saudi Arabia or to pose any threat to any of the countries in that region," Mr. Cohen said.

Mr. Butler said in an interview with Reuters on Tuesday that "words weren't minced" in his talks. One source described them as the "toughest in three years."

"I was basically told there will be no new information. In hard, substantive terms of disarmament, that is probably the most dispiriting thing that has been said in the last hours," Mr. Butler added.

He said Iraq's refusal to let inspectors into "presidential sites," announced during his previous visit in December, could not continue indefinitely.

## Aziz accuses U.N. weapon inspectors of incompetence

(Continued from page 1)

UNSCOM were highly-trained scientists, and that when one of them briefs a U.N. inspector using scientific terms "their counterpart does not understand and reacts in a suspicious manner."

Also on Wednesday, an Iraqi diplomat dismissed as "propaganda" a British

accusation that Iraq was producing enough anthrax to fill two missile warheads a week.

The diplomat told reporters here, reacting to comments in Hong Kong by British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook: "It's just propaganda."

The diplomat denied that Iraq held any of the deadly germ warfare agent, saying

that "at the end of the war, Iraq had no activities in any biological or chemical weapons."

Mr. Cook told a news conference in Hong Kong that "with every passing day, Saddam Hussein can continue to expand his arsenal of chemical and biological weapons."

"Every week, Saddam Hussein is creating enough

additional anthrax to fill two missile warheads."

U.N. officials were unable to confirm the information in Mr. Cook's statement.

Iraq has admitted to 10 tonnes of anthrax, but the U.N. weapons inspectors have been unable to verify the information, and suspect that the amounts held may be more than three times as high.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

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#### PROGRAMME TWO

##### Thursday Programmes

14:10 My Little Fairy Tale  
14:30 French Programme  
16:15 Prayers  
16:30 Believe and Behave  
17:00 NBA  
18:00 The Prince & The Pauper  
18:30 News Headlines  
18:35 Big Brother Jake  
19:00 The Journal  
19:05 Ramadan Talks  
19:35 Black Hat Chef  
20:00 Over a Cup of Tea  
20:30 Lois & Clark  
21:10 The Oprah Winfrey Show  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Feature Film: "The Mouse in the Corner"  
23:59 Music Show

##### Friday Programmes

14:10 Ruxpin  
14:30 French Programme  
16:15 Prayers  
16:30 Believe and Behave  
17:00 Wishbone  
17:30 Memo Cafe  
18:30 News Headlines  
18:35 Small Talk  
19:00 Le Journal  
19:15 Ramadan Talk  
19:35 Life on the Internet  
20:00 Friends  
20:30 Adventures of Brisco County  
21:10 Knife to the Heart  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Mini-series — Streets of Laredo  
23:15 Feature Film: "Fatal Friendship"

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### PRAYER TIMES

05:10 Fajr  
06:30 (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
11:47 Asr  
14:39 Maghreb  
18:24 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swaffeh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Amman International Church Tel. 365897  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 688404  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking

Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Temperatures are expected to rise gradually during the weekend. It will be sunny and warm during the day becoming cool at night with winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman .....05/17  
Aqaba .....10/24  
Deserts .....03/13  
Jordan Valley .....09/22

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 15, Aqaba 21 Humidity readings: Amman 54 per cent, Aqaba 37 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**NIGHT DUTY**  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Wisam Hazzayin .....748563  
Dr. Mukhtes Nazharab .....820425  
Dr. Husein Hamoud .....674884  
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyib .....630115  
Firas pharmacy .....661912  
Ferdows pharmacy .....778336  
Al Asema pharmacy .....637055  
Nabroukh pharmacy .....623672

Al Salam pharmacy .....636730  
Yacoub pharmacy .....644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy .....637660  
Najib pharmacy .....847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Farzi Abul Hajja .....252970  
Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Salah Al Safarini .....987565  
Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre .....637111  
Civil Defence Department .....661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue .....630341  
Civil Defence Emergency .....199  
Rescue Police 192 .....621111  
637777  
Fire Brigade .....617101  
Blood Bank .....775121  
Highway Police .....843402  
Traffic Police .....896390  
Public Security Department .....630321  
Hotel Complaints .....605800  
Price Complaints .....661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints .....897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111  
Telephone Information (direct assistance) .....121  
Overseas Calls .....010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs .....661101

Jordan Television .....773111  
Radio Jordan .....774111  
Water Authority .....680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority .....815615  
Electric Power Company .....636381  
RJ Flight Information 44-53200  
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 44-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre .....81381332  
Khalidi Maternity .....6428116  
Akleh Maternity .....6424112  
Jabal Amman Maternity .....642362  
Malhus, J. Amman .....636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071  
Shmeisani Hospital .....669131  
University Hospital .....845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital .....6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali 66612037  
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....6641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen .....771013  
Al-Bashir .....77511126  
Army, Marka .....89161115  
Queen Alia Hospital .....60224050  
Amal Hospital .....674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....365199  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital .....091983323

Zarqa National Hospital .....10:05  
Beirut (RJ) .....10:05  
Muscat, Doha (RJ)

Ben Sina Hospital (RJ) 091986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (RJ) 091990990  
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Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 44-53200  
Aqaba:  
Princess Haya Hospital (RJ) 031314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200 where it should always be verified.

Information on other flights are supplied on phone 44 (52700) or 44 (53250).

#### ARRIVALS

##### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
08:15 Sanaa (RJ)  
08:25 Bombay (RJ)  
09:15 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)  
09:30 New Delhi (RJ)

10:05 Beirut (RJ)  
10:05 Muscat, Doha (RJ)  
10:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
10:30 Colombo (RJ)  
11:00 Sharjah (add) (RJ)  
15:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
16:25 London (RJ)  
17:20 Al Ain (RJ)  
18:05 Athens (RJ)  
18:05 Kuwait (RJ)  
18:10 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)  
18:55 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)  
19:30 Moscow (RJ)  
23:45 Larnaca (RJ)  
02:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)

##### Other Flights

13:15 Riyadh (SV)  
14:10 Sharjah (AH)  
15:00 Doha (QR)  
15:20 Muscat, Doha (GF)  
16:00 Dubai (EK)  
16:30 Rome (AZ)  
20:00 Tel Aviv (MS)  
20:10 Beirut (ME)  
20:40 Cairo (MS)  
23:10 Istanbul (TK)  
23:30 London, Beirut (BA)

##### Royal Wings (RW)

(For Thursday and Friday)  
07:45 Aqaba (RW)  
09:05 Amman (QALIA) (RW)  
09:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
17:20 Tel Aviv (RW)  
18:30 Amman (QALIA) (RW)  
21:20 Aqaba (RW)  
22:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

##### For Thursday and Friday

06:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
08:15 Aqaba (RW)  
09:30 Amman (QALIA) (RW)  
16:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
17:55 Tel Aviv (RW)  
20:30 Amman (QALIA) (RW)  
21:50 Aqaba (RW)

### DEPARTURES

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:20 Beirut (RJ)  
10:00 Al Ain (RJ)  
10:00 Moscow (RJ)  
10:10 Abu Dhabi, Doha (add) (RJ)  
11:00 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
11:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
12:05 Kuwait (RJ)  
12:10 Paris (RJ)  
12:15 London (RJ)  
12:20 Athens (RJ)  
19:50 Larnaca (RJ)  
20:10 Cairo (RJ)  
20:30 Jeddah (RJ)  
21:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
23:00 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

#### Other Flights

00:35 Amsterdam (KL)  
03:00 Athens (OA)  
06:40 Beirut, London (BA)  
08:00 Beirut (ME)  
11:20 London (BA)  
14:45 Riyadh (SV)  
15:00 Algiers (AF)  
15:55 Doha (QR)  
16:20 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)  
17:00 Muscat, Dubai (EK)  
17:30 Rome (AZ)  
21:20 Tel Aviv (LY)  
21:40 Cairo (MS)  
08:00 Beirut (ME)

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(For Thursday and Friday)  
06:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
08:15 Aqaba (RW)  
09:30 Amman (QALIA) (RW)  
16:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
17:55 Tel Aviv (RW)  
20:30 Amman (QALIA) (RW)  
21:50 Aqaba (RW)







## Cohen visits Korean DMZ to illustrate landmine need

PANMUNJOM. South Korea (AFP) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen visited a former North Korean invasion route Wednesday to illustrate why Washington has not joined in a global ban on anti-personnel landmines.

With U.S. soldiers standing guard, Mr. Cohen inspected a 150-metre stretch of road near the Demilitarised Zone that runs through fields sown with hundreds of anti-tank and anti-personnel mines.

"Without these mines our troops would be vulnerable, indeed the people of South Korea would be vulnerable to a surprise attack and the strength of a million-man army on the other side of the DMZ," Mr. Cohen said.

The two-lane black-top, which runs through the mountains north to the truce village at Panmunjom, was one of the main routes used by the North Korean army to invade the South in 1950.

Main Supply Route One today runs through an obstacle course of mine-

fields, 10-foot high "tanks walls" and traps engineered to drop slabs of concrete across the road in times of war.

U.S. President Bill Clinton last year bowed to the Pentagon's argument that mines were indispensable on the Korean Peninsula, and refused to sign the Ottawa treaty banning anti-personnel landmines without an exception for Korea.

But the ban continues to gain political momentum with each new signatory. Jodie Williams, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for leading the campaign to ban landmines, is due here Feb. 2-5 at the invitation of South Korean environmentalists.

A one-year U.S. moratorium on the use of anti-personnel land mines begins next year, except in Korea, and the U.S. administration has pledged to try to come up with an alternative to landmines in Korea by 2006.

None has been found yet, according to Mr. Cohen, although different tech-

nologies are being explored.

"It's well and good that we're determined to find alternatives if they exist, but they must not in any way diminish the security that currently is being provided by the landmines in place," Mr. Cohen said.

There are as many as a million mines planted along the south side of the DMZ, all of them South Korean. But U.S. plans call for the planting of millions more in designated areas if war breaks out, a U.S. military official said.

With Seoul 27 miles from the DMZ, and 65 per cent of the North Korean forces massed near the frontier, U.S. military planners insist that mines are needed to slow down invading forces and channel them into "kill zones."

Mr. Cohen, who arrived here from Japan, flew from Camp Boniface near the DMZ by helicopter to a U.S. military range north-east of Seoul to watch a live fire exercise and give a pep talk to GIs training in the biting mountain cold.

From a mountaintop observation post, Mr. Cohen could see M1-A1 battle tanks and Bradley Fighting vehicles and Apache helicopters firing volleys of cannon and rocket fire into a mountainside.

On his last stop of an 11-day seven country tour, Mr. Cohen is scheduled to meet Thursday with Korea's President-elect Kim Dae-jung and outgoing President Kim Young-sam.

The talks are expected to deal with the impact of the economic crisis on South Korea's military budgets and its weapons procurement plans.

The crisis is reported to have derailed some major arms purchases, including an estimated billion dollar deal for AWACS radar surveillance planes that was being negotiated with Boeing.

As he did in visits last week to South East Asian countries, Mr. Cohen was expected to offer assurances that Washington would try to help work out ways to stretch out or restructure arms purchases.



U.S. Secretary of Defence William Cohen smiles after receiving a souvenir gift from the troops of the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division at a live firing range near the South Korean town of Uijongbu (Reuters photo)

## Ruling out Chechenya recognition, Georgia urges quid pro quo

MOSCOW (AFP) — Georgia ruled out Wednesday unilateral moves to recognise the breakaway Russian Republic of Chechenya, and urged Moscow to reciprocate over Tbilisi's secessionist regions.

First Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Ukleba said he hoped Moscow would not bypass Tbilisi and deal directly with the breakaway Georgian republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

"These are similar processes, so the two sovereign states — Georgia and Russia, must thor-

oughly weigh their moves," he said, referring to Russia's difficulties in Chechenya.

Chechen separatists inflicted a series of humiliating defeats on Russian forces sent to crush their independence drive during a 21-month war which left more than 50,000 people dead, mainly civilians.

The two sides signed a formal peace treaty in June last year, and although the issue of deciding Chechenya's final status was put off for five years, the Chechens have won de facto independence from Moscow. Abkhazian separatists

drove out Georgian government troops from the northern province in a 1992-93 war in which up to 10,000 people died. Tbilisi blamed its defeat on Russian support for the separatists, although it accepted a Russian peace-keeping force in the area as part of a May 1994 ceasefire.

South Ossetian separatists, pushing for reunification with neighbouring Russian republic of North Ossetia, defeated Georgian troops in 1991 after Tbilisi scrapped its autonomous status in 1990. A ceasefire has been in force since 1992.

## U.S. 'toxic ship' exports to India spark Greenpeace protest

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Activists of environmental group Greenpeace demonstrated here Wednesday against U.S. ships containing toxic substances being sent to India to be broken up.

About 75 people, protesting outside the U.S. embassy, said ships containing asbestos and lead-based paints were broken up at the western Indian port of Alang in the state of Gujarat.

Greenpeace International spokesman Nityanand Jayaraman said on average one worker at the port died each day because of "abysmal" safety standards.

Mr. Jayaraman, who said

a memorandum was sent to the ambassador urging the United States to stop sending ships to Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, added: "As far as the U.S. is concerned, developing nations are the scavengers of the world with India heading the pack."

"Otherwise, why would they be sending their poisonous wastes to facilities with abysmal worker safety and environmental conditions?"

No one at the embassy was available for comment. According to media reports, about 300 ships came to India from around the globe in 1996 for breaking.

"Unofficial figures say

that at least one worker is killed everyday in the ship-breaking yards in Alang due to exposure to toxins and unsafe working conditions," Mr. Jayaraman said.

He said workers were exposed to asbestos, a cancer-inducing substance, and lead which was a "cumulative poison" affecting the central nervous system.

India's Supreme Court last May banned the import of hazardous chemicals. But Mr. Jayaraman added: "Even after the court decision the United States remains the largest exporter of hazardous chemicals. It remains one of the few nations that has exported zinc ash."

## Ousted Cambodian co-premier calls for talks on proposed ceasefire

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Deposed Cambodian co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh Wednesday proposed opening negotiations to discuss a ceasefire offer put forward by strongman Hun Sen.

"I am very much in favor (of) the principle of a cessation of all hostilities which have caused so much destruction, suffering and death," the exiled prince said in a statement from Bangkok where he is now staying.

"I propose as a practical modality that the two sides meet at the level of political representatives in order to discuss the ... practical modalities of the ceasefire (and) political questions, notably preparation for (July's scheduled) election."

The prince, whose troops have been battling those of Phnom Penh since he was effectively ousted in July, suggested the first meeting between the two sides take place in Thailand.

There was no immediate indication if Hun Sen, Cambodia's powerful second prime minister, would accept to negotiate the deal which would allow his resistance forces to remain intact in their areas of control.

A senior adviser to Hun Sen, commenting on an earlier message disclosing the prince's stance from leading dissident Sam Rainsy who has been seeking to mediate between the two sides, said he did not know how Hun Sen would respond.

"I don't know what he will think," said Prak Sokhon, adding, however, that Hun Sen had accepted an invitation from Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai to visit Thailand to discuss bilateral relations.

"He agreed with pleasure," Prak Sokhon said of the invitation which was offered Wednesday by Thailand's ambassador to Cambodia.

No date was set for the visit and Prak Sokhon added the subject of a ceasefire or peace negotiations between the warring factions had not been discussed between Hun Sen and the Thai envoy.

However, Sam Rainsy has hinted the Thais were willing to help "facilitate" an agreement between the two sides and last week delivered a message from Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan to Hun Sen.

The contents of the message have yet to be clearly explained but shortly after receiving it, the current ceasefire proposal was made to the resistance.

## Sonia Gandhi evokes insurgency horrors in emotional election speech

GUWAHATI. India (AFP) — Sonia Gandhi, the widow of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Wednesday touched upon the horrors of insurgency in an emotive election speech for her husband's embattled Congress party.

The Italian-born widow told a crowd of 20,000 here that she empathised with victims of insurgency in India's militancy-ridden eastern frontier, where 50,000 people have died in separatist violence over 50 years.

Sonia Gandhi, who began campaigning for the Congress from her husband's murder site in the south of the country, referred to the assassinations of her husband and her mother-in-law Indira Gandhi, who was also prime minister.

"I can feel the trauma and agony of the women in the north-east whose near ones have lost their lives to terrorists' bullets," she said in Hindi, India's national language.

India is going to the polls in February and March to elect a new government. Analysts

predict another hung parliament, with the Hindu nationalists emerging as the largest party ahead of Congress.

Congress, in decline after ruling India for four decades after independence, is hoping that the aura of the Gandhi name and Sonia's campaigns will bring it back to power.

Sonia Gandhi, who was accompanied by her daughter Priyanka, said: "I have seen my mother-in-law and my husband sacrificing their lives for the sake of the country... I am the daughter-in-law of that family which has sacrificed everything for India."

The crowd at the venue, an open ground in the heart of the capital of the state of Assam, shouted slogans in support of Mrs. Sonia. Many women wept openly during her speech.

The site was decorated with huge cutouts of Rajiv Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi. The 51-year-old Gandhi said the Congress, India's oldest bloc, was the best bet for India, which has seen three governments since

the last general elections in 1996 led to a hung parliament.

"Congress is the only party in the country which can provide a stable government for five years," she said. "The real enemy of the people today is militancy, growing inflation, poverty and illiteracy."

Guwahati was Sonia Gandhi's ninth election stop since she began campaigning for the Congress on Jan. 11 in a southern town where her husband was blown up by Sri Lankan Tamil rebels.

Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi were expected to visit the eastern city of Ranchi later Wednesday to address another election rally.

Congress accuses India's dominant Hindu nationalists — widely tipped to top the polls but fall short of a clear majority — of sectarian policies and alleges it will overturn India's secular constitution. India has 120 million Muslims among a total population of 960 million.

## Malawi Banda's true age revealed, possibly

BLANTYRE (AFP) — Malawi's late dictator Kamuzu Banda was 101 when he died in November and not in his 90s, the official Malawi News Agency said Wednesday, citing new research.

Banda's exact year of birth has been shrouded in confusion for years. The autocratic ruler, who led Malawi and indeed owned much of its assets, was ousted at the polls in 1994 after being forced to accept multi-party politics.

Katola Phiri, an opposition politician and elder of the Church of Central African Presbyterian (CCAP), citing church records, told a service in memory of Banda that he

was born in 1896, not 1906 as officially recognised.

The 1906 date was a distortion by a teacher named Hanneock Msokera who gave missionaries the wrong year, Mr. Phiri explained, but he did not say why Mr. Msokera did so.

Mr. Phiri said church research showed that Banda, who studied medicine in Scotland and imposed virtually Victorian values on a long hermetically sealed southern African country, left Malawi for overseas at the age of 21, and not 13 as previously believed.

"For reasons best known to himself, Banda did not like history to be written while he was still

alive, but what I am giving you now is the true history of Banda," Mr. Phiri was quoted by the news agency as saying.

Mr. Phiri said Banda, who ruled the country for three decades from independence until his ouster at the polls after being forced to adopt a multi-party system, was born Kamukhwa Banda in 1896, but his illiterate parents later forgot the year.

Kamuzu was baptised in 1910 and named Akimu, but later changed his name to Hastings when he went to study at an American academy.

Mr. Phiri also discounted theories that Banda was not Malawian, but of black American origin.

## S. Leone junta orders newspapers to register

FREETOWN (AFP) — The military government in Sierra Leone Wednesday ordered all newspapers to register by the end of January.

"All newspaper proprietors must register or re-register their media institutions to legitimise their operations," the Department of Information said.

The announcement was the second attempt by the junta to get newspapers registered since the military seized power on May 25.

Four months ago, a similar attempt was condemned both by the papers and the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists which resolved not to recognise the regime.

The dozen or so newspapers currently in circulation reflect all shades of opinion regarding the junta and the ousted civilian government led by President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

Several proprietors told AFP they would wait until the deadline before making up their minds.

The Newspaper Amendment Act of 1980 obliges newspapers to register with the information ministry. Registration costs an initial \$2,000 and then \$1,000 annually.

Non-compliance is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and a jail term not exceeding 12 months.

The act also provides for authorities "to refuse or suspend or cancel a certificate of registration" and for the proprietor "to appeal to the High Court against the minister's decision."

## China confirms invitation to U.N. rights chief

GENEVA (AFP) — China has officially extended an invitation to U.N. Human Rights Commissioner Mary Robinson, the U.N. said Wednesday.

China's permanent U.N. Ambassador Wu Jianmin handed a letter of invitation to Ms. Robinson at a meeting Tuesday, a statement said, adding that talks on appropriate dates will "now be under way."

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen told his visiting British counterpart Robin Cook Monday that Beijing had issued an open-ended invitation for Ms. Robinson to visit China.

Mr. Cook said Tuesday he did not expect the visit to take place until later in the year. Ms. Robinson would be the first human rights commissioner to visit China on an official basis. Her predecessor, Jose Ayala-Lasso from Ecuador, had received an invitation from Beijing but left to take up the post of foreign minister in Quito before he could make the trip.

China last year again escaped official censure over its human rights record at the spring Human Rights Commission session in Geneva, as it has done since the military crackdown in Tiananmen Square in June 1989.

A motion sponsored by Denmark seeking to criticise China for human rights abuses was defeated by a majority of votes by the 53-member commission.

China appears to have launched a fresh offensive to win over critics of its human rights policies following Beijing's signing of the U.N. International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights last year and its pledge to sign a twin agreement on civil and political rights in the near future.

Mr. Cook said he had raised 12 cases of imprisoned dissidents with Mr. Qian and with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, most notably the case of Wang Dan, a student activist during the Tiananmen Square incident.



Activists from the environmental group Greenpeace act out a short scene to protest the breaking up in India of U.S. ships containing toxic substances in front of the U.S. embassy (AFP photo)



S. Leone junta orders newspapers to register

FREETOWN (AFP) — The military government in Sierra Leone Wednesday ordered newspapers to register by the end of January.

All new paper must register or negotiate with the Department of Information.

The announcement was a second attempt by the junta to get newspapers registered by the military seized power May 25.

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# World News

## 15 Muslim rebels dead, 8 wounded in southern Philippines battle

BULDON, Philippines (AFP) — Fifteen Muslim rebels were killed and eight government troops wounded in renewed clashes that could threaten efforts to hold peace talks, officials said Wednesday.

Southern Philippines military commander Major General Joselin Nazareno said the 15 rebels of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) were killed in a barrage of army artillery fire Tuesday in the southern town of Buldon.

He said the attack was in retaliation for a mortar barrage from the MILF in which eight soldiers were wounded.

Major Roque Garingalao, spokesman of an army division based in Cotabato city near Buldon, accused the MILF of firing first on a military detachment on the perimeter of the front's main base, Camp Abubakar.

But MILF military chieftain Mohammad Murad said it was the army which drew first blood, firing 70 artillery rounds on the rebel position Tuesday alone.

He also denied any rebel deaths, saying the MILF inflicted an undetermined number of casualties on government forces.

"We also fired our mortars to let them know that we are ready to defend the camp," Mr. Murad said in an interview with the Roman Catholic-run radio station in Cotabato city.

It was the biggest clash between the two sides since a massive army offensive in June 1997 in which they captured a major MILF base, Camp Rajamuda, in two weeks of fierce fighting.

At least 158 people, most of them rebels, were killed in that offensive, which was settled when the two sides signed a ceasefire in July. However, the implementing rules of that ceasefire were agreed upon only in October 1997.

Sporadic exchanges of mortar and artillery fire could be heard Wednesday, witnesses said. Military and rebel officials said there were no reports of new casualties or an advance by ground forces separated only by a river in the village of Upper Minabai.

Four Muslim guerrillas and a government militiaman were killed in a mortar and artillery exchange on Jan. 15.

Observers said the latest fighting could threaten current exploratory contacts that could lead to possible formal peace talks.

The talks aim to forge a political settlement of the MILF's 20-year armed struggle for an independent Muslim state in the main southern island of Mindanao, which this largely Roman Catholic nation's Muslim minority consider as their ancestral homeland.

"If these (clashes) will continue, the technical committee meeting will be affected," Mr. Murad said, referring to a meeting scheduled next month in the southern city of Marawi to set the agenda and a date for possible formal peace negotiations.

"We will boycott the meeting if the shelling will continue," Mr. Murad said as he accused the military of "provoking war."

Mr. Garingalao said that the MILF has been monitored digging fox holes since last week.

Mr. Murad alleged that the military was looking for a reason to capture a watershed on Upper Minabai occupied by MILF rebels in order to allow a logging firm nearby to cut the trees.

This would lead to a flooding of Camp Abubakar during the rainy season, he said.

The MILF, backed by 10,000 guerrillas, was left out of a peace treaty that Manila signed with the larger Moro Islamic Liberation Front in September 1996 in exchange for wider Muslim autonomy and development funds.

This has left the MILF as the last major insurgent group in the southern Philippines that the government has to deal with in order to attract investors in the natural resources-rich region.



Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski leaves the federal courthouse in Sacramento, escorted by a United States marshal (Reuters photo)

## Unabomber suspect declared mentally competent to stand trial

SACRAMENTO, California (AFP) — Theodore Kaczynski, the former university mathematics professor accused of being the so-called Unabomber, was declared mentally competent to stand trial for murder.

Both defence attorneys and prosecutors agreed to accept the conclusions of psychiatric expert Sally Johnson, who deemed him competent after interviewing the Harvard-educated Professor Kaczynski for 19 hours.

All but the cover page of Ms. Johnson's 47-page report has been sealed by the court, but sources who had access to the document said Ms. Johnson said Professor Kaczynski suffered from paranoid schizophrenia.

However, Ms. Johnson said that the suspect "isn't totally incompetent to the extent that he is unable to understand the nature and consequences of the proceedings filed against him or to assist his attorneys in his own defence."

The 55-year-old Kaczynski faces a 10-count indictment for killing two Sacramento men and maiming two scientists. If convicted, he could face the death penalty. He faces a third murder charge in New Jersey.

Apparently motivated by a hatred of modern technology, the so-called Unabomber was blamed for 16 letter-bombs and other attacks with explosives between 1979 and 1995 that also left 23 people injured.

Professor Kaczynski has pleaded innocent to murder charges. The court rejected an earlier plea bargain that would have had him enter a plea of guilty in return for a sentence of life in prison.

Professor Kaczynski's psychiatric evaluation could lead to a new plea bargain. Legal experts said the government may accept the deal this time around.

U.S. District Judge Garland Burrell said he would rule Thursday whether Professor Kaczynski, who has tied the court proceedings in legal knots from the start of the trial on Jan. 5, is competent to serve as his own lawyer.

In a related development, Professor Kaczynski was also taken off suicide watch at the Sacramento County jail over the weekend after doctors determined he could safely be returned to a regular cell.

The precaution was taken Jan. 8 when Professor Kaczynski came to the courthouse with red marks on his neck and without underwear when he changed from his prison outfit into civilian clothes for his court appearance.

Authorities feared that he had unsuccessfully tried to hang himself with his underwear.

The development came after Professor Kaczynski tried to fire his attorneys because they wanted to portray him as mentally ill as part of their strategy to defend him. He demanded to be allowed to defend himself.

Professor Kaczynski was arrested in April 1996 at his Montana cabin where he had lived as a recluse for more than two decades. Authorities said they found numerous writings linking him to the bombings.

"Unabomber" derives from an acronym used by federal investigators to identify their suspect, whose early targets were university professors and airline executives.

The Summer Palace, built in the middle of the 18th century with the help of European Jesuits, was burned by an Anglo-French expeditionary force in 1860. It was rebuilt in 1886 and is the largest imperial park in the country, welcoming between 40 and 50 million visitors a year.

The Temple of Heaven was used by the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) emperors for their annual harvest prayers.

The June 27 concert of classical, pop and rock music will be staged at the family home of Althorp Park, 120 kilometres northwest of London.

Spokeswoman Shelley Anne Claircourt said the date is four days before the princess's birthday on July 1, when Althorp Park opens for two months to let the public view the island where she is buried.

Fifteen thousand tickets will be sold to raise money for her Memorial Fund which supports her favourite charities.

They will go on sale after Feb. 27 when the names of those taking part in the concert will be released.

The princess, 39, died in a high-speed car crash in Paris on Aug. 31 in which her companion, Dodi Fayed, and their driver also died.

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The attack triggered public outrage at the time, and an anti-racist rally in Christchurch attracted over 1,000 people.

The four, aged 23, 22, and two aged 17, showed little

reaction to their sentences. Two people were arrested outside the court Wednesday after Nazi signs and German slogan were shouted during Wednesday's sentencing.

The victim told Radio New Zealand Wednesday that he knew other black people in Christchurch who refrained from going out because they feared racist attacks.

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## Military spark panic in Zimbabwe's riot-torn capital

HARARE (AFP) — The deployment of troops in Zimbabwe's riot-torn capital Harare caused widespread panic Wednesday as hundreds of people tried to flee the city centre by car and shops closed again, while the government met in emergency session.

Hundreds of drivers drove their vehicles onto the sidewalks or drove the wrong way down one-way streets in a bid to quit the city, while alarmed pedestrians ran in all directions. The panic was prompted by the deployment of troops at a southern exit of the city.

Three military helicopters were maintaining a permanent watch over central Harare, where President Mugabe's government deployed troops Tuesday during a second day of food riots and ordered soldiers to

use live ammunition against looters.

The cabinet was Wednesday recalled from its recess for an unscheduled emergency meeting to discuss the crisis in the country sparked by the food riots, a presidential spokesman said.

"Yes the cabinet meeting is going on right now... to review the situation unfolding in the country," President Mugabe's press secretary George Charamba said. The Home Affairs ministry would announce the cabinet position, he said.

Mr. Charamba also confirmed to AFP that President Mugabe was to attend a scheduled meeting of the politburo of his ruling ZANU-PF party after the cabinet session.

President Mugabe has threatened to impose a state

of emergency should the troubles continue.

The latest wave of panic and street chaos in Harare lasted for about 20 minutes before order was restored, but shops started closing down again after relative calm in the morning, while staff left office buildings.

Witnesses earlier said that a group of soldiers deployed in the city beat up a party of shop owners and workers Wednesday as they attempted to clean up the mess left by looters.

Police on guard at the Chitungwiza shopping mall, which was razed in the riots, had just allowed shop employees and their bosses into the centre to clean up when the soldiers burst in, an AFP photographer said.

The soldiers beat some of the workers and shop owners with sjamborks (whips), and ordered others to do press-ups and then leave, said the photographer who was present.

Troops confiscated film from photographers and television crews who recorded the incident.

The rioting began Monday when people from working-class districts in the south began attacking shops in a protest against the rise in prices of basic foodstuffs such as maize flour.

The beleaguered government has already come under strong pressure from western donors over its controversial land reform programme taking white-owned farmland for black peasants, and food price rises have been presented as being related to this measure.

Wednesday added his support to the appeal, issuing a statement saying that dissidents should be allowed to join their families "for a peaceful and happy Spring Festival," as the country is enjoying economic and social stability.

The traditional lunar new year is commonly referred to as "Spring Festival" in mainland China. News of Mr. Zhou's release came a day after the parents of China's most prominent political prisoner, Wang Dan, said he could be moved to Beijing from a jail 500 kilometres away.

The head of Jinzhou prison, where Wang Dan has been held since the end of 1996, told him late last month that he was going to make a report to concerned departments to see if the dissident could be moved to a Beijing jail. Mr. Wang's father said.

Wang Dan, 28, was handed an 11-year prison term in 1996 for "supervision" after he had been held in custody for 14 months. He had already been jailed for four years following the Tiananmen crackdown.

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## China frees dissident Zhou Guoqiang

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese dissident lawyer Zhou Guoqiang has been freed after more than three years in a labour camp, friends said Wednesday.

Mr. Zhou, 39, a founder of the 1993 "Peace Charter," was expected to return to Beijing shortly after being released from the Shuanghe prison camp in northeastern Heilongjiang province Tuesday, a friend said in a telephone interview with AFP.

The friend said his wife, Wang Hui, went to the camp to collect him.

Mr. Zhou took part in the 1979 Democracy Wall movement as editor of the controversial Today magazine and was later detained for six months prior to the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, for organising labour strikes.

He went on to co-found the "Peace Charter" in 1993 with a handful of other dissidents working towards a more democratic China and was subsequently redetained in early 1994 for inciting turmoil and disrupting social order.

In September of that

year, he was sentenced to three years reform-through-labour, the maximum term that can be handed down without a trial.

Prison authorities extended his sentence by one year after they said they had caught him trying to escape.

Veteran dissident Qin Yongmin — a fellow author of the Peace Charter — welcomed the release.

"I'm very happy to hear he has been released," he told AFP from his home in the central city of Wuhan. Mr. Qin, one of the most active of China's remaining dissidents at large, is defying police orders to leave the country.

Mr. Zhou's name figured on a list of 10 political prisoners that dissident Lin Xinsu Tuesday urged President Jiang Zemin to free to mark the Chinese Lunar New Year, which is to be celebrated Jan. 28.

Mr. Lin's open letter called for a general amnesty for jailed dissidents on the holiday, the most important of the year in China.

A Beijing-based dissident, Wang Zhixin,

Polish military units is under negotiation, the Romanian defence ministry spokesman said.

Mr. Ananiev, who has been on a visit to Romania since Tuesday, has met with President Emil Constantinescu and Prime Minister Victor Ciorbea and he was due to meet Orthodox Church Patriarch Teoctist before leaving Romania later Wednesday.

The victim told Radio New Zealand Wednesday that he knew other black people in Christchurch who refrained from going out because they feared racist attacks.

The attack triggered public outrage at the time, and an anti-racist rally in Christchurch attracted over 1,000 people.

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China confirms invitation to U.N. rights chief

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## What's next?

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton's talks with Benjamin Netanyahu in Washington Tuesday seem to have failed to dislodge the Israeli prime minister from his position that has left the peace process in limbo for many months now. Mr. Netanyahu has adamantly held to his hardline stance, despite the chorus of international and regional voices calling for a rapid Israeli redeployment in the Palestinian areas. President Clinton is either unable, or unwilling, to pressure Israel to honour its past commitments under the Oslo accords. He has obviously tried to exercise clout on the visiting Israeli leader but to no avail. Mr. Netanyahu must have concluded that the Clinton administration is too vulnerable at this point in time to apply real pressure against Israel, because the administration is distracted at the moment by the unfolding events in Iraq and East Asia and domestic affairs. Also on the mind of Mr. Clinton and his Democratic Party are the U.S. presidential elections, due in less than two years. Vice President Al Gore will be running and for him to win he needs all the support from the powerful Jewish lobby in the U.S.

Therefore, it will be the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, who will have to compromise and go along with whatever Netanyahu offers him and whatever soothing words he will hear from his American hosts. Instead without anything positive or promising coming from the Israeli leader, the Clinton-Arafat talks can be nothing more than an occasion to reciprocate sympathies.

Since all the parties that have a stake in the Mideast peace process have viewed the Clinton-Netanyahu talks as a "make or break" proposition, it is fair to conclude that the future looks bleak. President Arafat has recently been hinting at a resumption of the intifada. But the Palestinians are now fatigued by the crippling economic conditions under which they live and increasing disillusionment with the Oslo process. Whether they will revolt or not, therefore, remains to be seen. But an explosion must not be ruled out altogether. There are more Palestinians under arms these days than there were during the days of the intifada and they are increasingly becoming agitated by Israeli intransigence, the deadlocked peace process and their continuing suffering.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Tareq Masarweh described the slaying of eight people in Amman Saturday as a dastardly crime unprecedented in form or pattern in Jordan's history. This ugly crime was perhaps perpetrated by elements hostile to Jordan and Iraq, elements determined to mar relations with the Iraqi people, the writer said. Other hostile elements have succeeded in damaging relations between Jordan and Syria, and others have been intent on ruining Jordan's ties with the Palestinian National Authority and the Palestinian people, according to Masarweh. The general aim of these enemy groups is to isolate Jordan on all sides, cutting the Kingdom's ties with neighbouring countries except for Israel so that Jordan will maintain stronger ties with the Jewish state at the expense of the other Arab states and remain under the U.S.-Israeli influence. The writer said the security services should remain alert and vigilant, should speed up procedures leading to the arrest of the perpetrators of Saturday's murders and should deal firmly with those elements that are working in the dark to ruin Jordan's ties with its sister Arab states.

Al Arab Al Yawm's Marwan Hazine described a Turkish government decision to ban the Islamic Welfare Party in Turkey as a dangerous blow to democracy. The inevitable consequence of such a step will be a return to the dark age and placing Turkey's future under U.S. hegemony, said the writer. The U.S. has a major interest in Turkey which has borders with Iraq and Iran and controls the water resources that feed Iraq and Syria, and by controlling Turkey, Washington would secure its domination of this region to protect its own interests and those of Israel, Hazine said. The banning of the Islamic Welfare Party, which represents at least four million Turks, at a time when the country is facing mounting economic problems, is most likely to accelerate the outbreak of a civil war, added the writer. He said the Welfare Party has been constitutionally created and its activities were always within the framework of the law. He said banning the political party will create more problems for Ankara at the domestic as well as external levels.

## View from Academia

# Traffic, Mideast peace and the role of caretakers

Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

TWO IMPORTANT matters are receiving special attention this weekend: the disturbing traffic situation in Jordan and the faltering Middle-East peace process. On the former front, the Jordanian Public Security Department (PSD) — caretaker of road discipline and safety — is intent upon introducing and enforcing the much-talked about "point-system" of traffic violations with the aim of alleviating traffic accidents and road havoc; on the latter, the U.S. administration (caretaker of the Mideast peace process), has invited the Israeli prime minister and the Palestinian president for an audience with President Clinton in attempt to inject some vitality and progress in the stalled Palestinian-Israeli peace talks.

The two matters (the first of concern to all Jordanians, and the second to all Middle-Easterners and the international community at large) are not directly related, of course. Nevertheless, they bear some striking similarities in many ways. Both have been troubling us for quite some time. Both have been extremely difficult to tackle. Both have been elusive. Both have consumed so much effort, with only minor or marginal results. Lack of progress in both has caused us not only a great deal of worry, disappointment, frustration, stress and even disillusionment but also violence, pain, suffering, bloodshed and real tragedies. And lack of progress in both has stood between us and the happy aftermath of security, peace of mind and harmony which we have craved for so long. And so on and so forth.

One similarity which I wish to highlight here, however, is related to how the two matters may best be approached, perhaps.

So, how can you effect progress in both?

**...the caretakers of both matters, the PSD and the USA, must themselves be more assertive and aggressive in performing what is expected of them.**

Leaving road discipline and order to the wisdom of the Jordanian motorists themselves has, obviously, not worked. Yes, many motorists are highly disciplined and law-abiding; but a minority (a significant one) is not: it is selfish, disorderly, obnoxious, reckless, violent, fanatic and destructive. Similarly, leaving Mideast peace to the parties involved will not work. Many want peace to happen and are seriously working for it; but a minority (the one which holds most of the cards in its hands) is working against it — at least, it is not working for it. Such minority is a significant minority, and it is composed of selfish, disorderly, obnoxious, reckless, fanatic, extremist, violent, and destructive elements.

Well, simple: the caretakers of both matters, the PSD and the USA, must themselves be more assertive and aggressive in performing what is expected of them. The PSD, as has just been prefaced, is thinking of introducing and enforcing the point-system penalty. Those who accumulate a number of "serious traffic violations" will either have to take compulsory traffic lessons and courses or have their licence suspended.

Such a system may or may not be effective, depending on how it is handled and on several inter-related factors. How can you make sure that all (at least most) serious violations are spotted? You see, the serious violators are

on the whole shrewd and cunning and quite expert at when, where, and how to violate. In the sight of a policeman, they are doves and angels. The minute they are out of sight, they are hawks and devils. Assuming, however, that the system does work, how much of the problem will it take care of? A small part of it. And how do you define a "serious violation," and one which is less serious? The causes of traffic discomfort and accidents are manifold. What are you planning to do about a cab or "service" driver who stops in the middle of the road to pick up or drop passengers? What do you do to two cab drivers who slow down on a highway, obstructing the two lanes, in order to exchange a long greeting or converse? What do you do about wedding processions which obstruct traffic? What do you do about large vehicles which always drive faster than smaller ones? And what do you do about the presence of large vehicles in residential areas? What do you do about motorists who do not signal? Those who do not stop at stop-signs? Those who drive too slowly in the left lane? Those who swerve to avoid holes on the road and hit others? Those, those, those, etc.

The U.S. administration has invited the Israeli premier and the Palestinian leader to Washington. In the context of what has been happening, what good will that do? Do we not all know what the real problem is? Already we have heard news that President Clinton's meeting with the former is not all that promising — as routine, as ceremonial and as anti-climactic as always. So what else is new? If President Clinton does not intend to exert some pressure, what is he hoping to learn from the visits that he does not already know? But assuming that something will eventually come out of the meeting with the two leaders — i.e. that the U.S. president will convince Netanyahu to increase a little the percentage of the territories from which Israel is to redeploy for the time being and Arafat to decrease a little more the percentage he is demanding for now, how much of the problem will this solve? How long will it take the Israeli government to accept to redeploy from another small fraction, and another, and another? And when will we start talking about redeployment from all of areas B? And areas C? And how long will we wait to do something about the illegal Israeli settlements? And to do something about Jerusalem? And the Palestinian refugees? And peace with Lebanon? And peace with Syria? We all understand that peacemaking takes time, but surely time is precious and a crucial factor. We do not have all that much time to spare or waste. Doomsday (in both senses of the word) may come before we reach a settlement.

**The secret for road order and safety lies in effective police visibility and vigilance...**

There is one solution, and one solution only, for the traffic situation in Jordan. Not new laws — in my humble, lay opinion — but better enforcement of the present ones. The secret for road order and safety lies in effective police visibility and vigilance (the two important V's). The traffic police have been exerting highly commendable efforts; and they are sincere about wanting to alleviate the traffic problem. But more should — and can — be done still. Part of the problem so far has been either that police presence is sporadic, eclectic, seasonal, ceremonial and marginal, or that it is mainly symbolic and aloof. It is not enough to plant a policeman at a circle here or an intersection there to casually and routinely inspect what is going on. And it is not enough to have a police car stand next to a highway either with its flashers on or with

a policeman next to it casually, routinely, arbitrarily and eclectically stopping some passing vehicles to check the validity of their licence. What is required is something more diligent, vigilant and effective. Unless we spot at least 60% of traffic violations (let's not say 80% or 90%), both the serious and the less serious, the traffic situation will improve little.

Similarly, there is one solution, and one solution only, to the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace process: better enforcement of what has been agreed upon mutually. Not new agreements, not new ideas, not any new thing. The U.S., like the Jordanian PSD, has exerted highly commendable efforts with respect to Mideast peace, but unless the U.S., as a caretaker, does something more diligent, more vigilant and effective not much progress will happen. As things stand, U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross (though we highly appreciate him as a person and as a diplomat) is much like a policeman who stands at a circle or an intersection casually, routinely, eclectically, and sporadically (and therefore ineffectively) watching traffic pass by and violators get away with offences. The ceremonial trips to Washington are not too useful either. What is required is a serious push for implementation of agreements and for progress. Time is too precious to waste.

**Similarly, there is one solution, and one solution only, to the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace process: better enforcement of what has been agreed upon mutually.**

We understand, of course, that when we call for a more effective enforcement of existing traffic laws, we do not mean for the traffic police to go out on the road and start ticketing vehicles left and right. Far from it. In fact, we highly appreciate the PSD's maturity, civility and depth of vision, for it itself is against blind, harsh, ruthless or brutal enforcement of traffic laws.

The same applies to the U.S. role. When we call for exertion of pressure (and we know that the U.S. does not like to use the word "pressure") or for a more effective enforcement of signed agreements, we do not mean coercion and imposition of U.S. will on everybody. Far from it, for the U.S. basic understanding of how peace is to be brought about is mature enough and reasonable enough to be understood by us. But surely we Middle-Easterners (and all peace advocates) can tell the difference between an approach which is effective and one which is not. At this point in time, frankly speaking, the U.S. approach is simply ineffective.

The PSD exerted admirable but also effective efforts during Ramadan to alleviate traffic jams throughout the capital: its strategies were successful. Not long ago (during the Bush administration and the first term of Clinton's) the U.S. Middle East peace strategies were also effective and successful. The PSD and the USA need to substantially modify their approaches, benefiting from the periodic and partial successes they had. We want strategies which are a little more assertive and aggressive (the crucial two A's). We want to see real caretaking. What is the use of caretakers if they do not do their caretaking well? Otherwise, the situation in the Middle East, like the Jordanian road situation, will continue to be extremely uncomfortable, hazardous and tragic for all.

# Two old men: The succession problem

By Gwynne Dyer

THE FIRST thing you see when you fly into Havana airport is an enormous wall-slogan: "There will be no transition." They didn't put it there just to make Pope John Paul II feel at home, but it's as true of his own policy as it is of Fidel Castro's. Both men are determined that their revolutions will live on after them.

Castro, at 71, has ruled Cuba with an iron hand for almost 40 years. Pope John Paul is older, at 77, and has ruled the Catholic Church with equal inflexibility since 1978. And both men's main preoccupation now is to ensure that the succession falls into safe hands that will preserve their revolutions.

Castro seems particularly conscious of the parallels. In a live national television broadcast last week he urged his followers to turn out for the religious services that the Pope will celebrate in four Cuban cities, and made an ironic plug for himself at the same time: "Instead of seeing a meeting of an angel with the devil, couldn't one think of a meeting between two angels?"

One could certainly think at least of a meeting between two kindred spirits. Not only do both men have strongly authoritarian personalities, but they share one great common goal: to prevent a counter-revolution after they are gone.

John Paul is in a bigger hurry, for his health is now failing fast, but he also has a much better chance of success. The only electorate he has to worry about is the College of Cardinals, and he has personally chosen 89 of the 107 cardinals who will be eligible to vote (they must be under 80) for the next pope. They are his men, and they will defend his heritage.

It is an extraordinary heritage. John Paul came to power in a church in the throes of modernisation, and dragged it back to traditional doctrines and unquestioning obedience. The world's billion Catholics had little say in that operation, and they will have little say in the selection of John Paul's successor.

The likeliest candidate, now that health problems have sidelined previously favoured cardinals like Belgian Godfried Danneels and Brazilian Lucas Moreira Neves, is Cardinal Francis Arinze, a 66-year-old Nigerian who combines great



**Not only do both men have strongly authoritarian personalities, but they share one great common goal: to prevent a counter-revolution after they are gone.**

warmth with rigid orthodoxy on issues close to John Paul's heart like the bans on birth control, abortion, women priests, and married priests.

The leading Italian candidate, Carlo Maria Martini of Milan, is probably ruled out by his liberalism. Other Europeans like Christoph Schoenborn of Vienna and Miloslav Vlk of Prague don't make the cut simply because if the next pope is not Italian, he probably won't be European at all.

Latin America, home to over a third of the world's Catholics, is Africa's real competition, but it has no really front-rank candidates in the present College of Cardinals. That may change, of course, when John Paul names 16 new cardinals next month to bring the college up to its full strength. The point is that he has created a situation where

all the plausible candidates are men who will carry out his will, at least for one more papacy.

Fidel Castro must envy him that. There are lots of Communist Party members in the queue to replace him, including his brother Raul Castro (6 years younger), the armed forces chief, and Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly. But Castro's fear is that Communism itself will not survive him.

All the Communist regimes of Europe have crumbled, and Cubans have lived in crippling poverty since the generous Soviet subsidies dried up. Above all, the death of Jorge Mas Canosa has just deprived Castro of his best enemy.

What kept Castro in power so long, and would motivate some Cubans to fight for him even now, was not Cubans' love for

him or Communism. It was the fact that so many Cubans resented the relentless U.S. pressure against the country, from attempted assassinations and invasion in the early 60s to a trade embargo that has lasted into the present.

Mas Canosa, the right-wing millionaire who founded and led the Cuban American National Foundation, lobbied hard and with great success for those policies under eight U.S. presidents, but it did not win him much love among Cubans still living on the island. Mas Canosa's death, however, changes things both in the Cuban exile community and in Cuba itself.

The emergent opposition leader is Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo, a companion of Castro in the original revolutionary struggle who resisted the imposition of a Communist dictatorship and suffered 22 years in solitary confinement in a Cuban jail. He contemptuously referred to Castro and Mas Canosa as "two sides of the same coin: they empower each other and they live off each other."

Upon his release and exile from Cuba in 1986, Gutierrez Menoyo founded 'Cambio Cubano' (Cuban Change) as a democratic alternative to the hard-liners. He seeks not a U.S. invasion but just the creation of a 'legal space' in Cuba where a democratic opposition can organise. With Mas Canosa's death, he has become the most influential Cuban exile leader — 52 per cent of exiled Cubans in Miami backed him in a recent poll — and a mortal threat to Castro.

Gutierrez Menoyo is dangerous because he is reasonable. He fought against the old regime, and he doesn't frighten people in Cuba. Give him a few years, and he may even manage to end the U.S. embargo. Castro's main excuse for the economic disaster he has wrought in Cuba, and when Castro finally dies, Gutierrez Menoyo, not any of the Communist stalwarts of the present regime, will be the prime candidate to replace him.

The two old men meeting in Havana this week have much in common, and even seem to have a genuine respect for each other. But Pope John Paul knows that he has won the battle to perpetuate his ideas and policies, probably for another generation. And Fidel Castro knows that he has probably lost.

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Keep it please

By Jean-Claude

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## Society on the move

### Regional responsibilities and career reroutings

Samir Habashneh, former minister of culture and former member of parliament, is keeping his links with publicly elected chambers not only here in Jordan but in the rest of the Arab World as well as Africa. He was elected secretary general of the Forum for African and Arab Parliamentarians for Population and Development. The forum comprises 33 members from African and Arab parliaments, and its chairman, a deputy from Senegal, is based in Dakar. Mr. Habashneh, who as a deputy represented the Karak district, will be based in Amman at new offices expected to be ready for business after Eid Al Fitr. The forum was established at a conference convened last spring in Cape Town, South Africa, at which a charter was adopted and an executive committee of nine members was formed. Mr. Habashneh, whose term is three years, promises news of the forum's activities and progress will be forthcoming.

same time, First Secretary Sanjay Panda completes his three-year tour of duty in Amman and also returns to India to continue at his foreign service headquarters as under-secretary. While the ambassador's replacement has not yet been announced, the new envoy is expected to be a senior diplomat. Mr. Wakankar and his wife Neela, who was president for two consecutive terms of the Diplomatic Women's Club in Amman, have two adult children, a son, Milind, who is completing a Ph.D. in New York, and a daughter, Radhika, who is working in the management sector in India. The ambassador, who said his tenure in Jordan crowned his career, intends to remain active in social work, but there is always a possibility of his jumping into the political fray. As for Mr. Panda and his wife Minati, their "exciting" stint in the Kingdom brought a baby brother for their 7-year-old Ankit. Now two and a half, the Pandas' son was named Aman (correct as spelled, and in Urdu means peace) as he was born after the signing of the Oct. 1994 peace treaty. On Monday evening the Wakankars will host a reception at their Jubal Amman residence to say farewell and will also mark the occasion of the country's Republic Day.



Ambassador Gajanan and Neela Wakankar

**NEW CAPITAL:** Another former minister (of finance) Marwan Awad, has opted for the post of director general of the Qatar Islamic Bank. In doing so, Mr. Awad, also a former director general of the Middle East Bank for Investment, declined the offer made by the Jordanian Association of Banks to become its new director general. The association will thus be searching for another candidate. Mr. Awad is already in Doha and will soon be joined by his wife and children, including 6-year-old Muis, who with her smarts and personality is sure to be a smashing success.

**NEXT CHAPTER:** The Indian embassy faces a rare situation at month's end as its two top posts will be vacated — a simple matter of coincidence. Indian Ambassador Gajanan Wakankar will end 35 years of a distinguished diplomatic career and head home to Delhi in early February. At the

**FOR ENVIRONMENT'S SAKE:** Having drawn international attention to the pioneering role of regional NGOs in environmental protection, particular those in Jordan, Friends of the Environment President Raouf Dabbas will now make a new mark for the Kingdom. Mr. Dabbas, who is also on the Higher Committee for Environmental Protection of the General Corporation For The Protection of the Environment, was unanimously elected to the board of the Environment Liaison Centre International in Nairobi, Kenya. Comprised of more than 900 organisations from over 100 countries, the ELCI focuses its work on desertification, biodiversity, women and development and urban issues. Mr. Dabbas will represent the region comprising Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon and Turkey. The two-year old Friends of the Environment aims to promote environmental education.

**WRITERS HONOURED:** The Jordan Press Association bestowed honours on 12 of its 25-year members. The award recipients were 82-year-old Dafaiah Hnoud, former minister of interior and municipal affairs and publisher of Al Raya magazine and chairman of Al Sahafi newspaper; Tariq Khoury, formerly with Al Ra'i and a BBC correspondent, also managing editor of Petra, the national news agency; Omar Abanda of Al Ra'i, former press officer at the Prime Ministry; Nayef Mahdumeh; Atweh Abu Maeleg; Omar Hourani; Tawfiq Kiwan; Shafiq Obeidat; Faye Hamdan; Hashim Tarawneh; Dr. Musa Azrai and Mohammad Abbadi. Presenting the awards was JPA President Seif Sharif.

**MALLS A MANY:** With three new shopping and commercial malls sprouting up around Amman, observers are

scratching their heads wondering if there's enough purchasing power to absorb such mega enterprises. The Amman Mall, well into construction and under the proprietorship of Hani Ashour, owner of C-Town, will house 60 establishments including retail shops, restaurants, banks and travel agencies, and of course another C-Town supermarket. Another venture is that of Omar Salah, chairman of Century Investment Group which employs 1,200 people at its 12 factories established in the Qualifying Industrial Zone in Irbid. Mr. Salah's shopping mall is said to be a \$20 million project. But towering over both is the \$140 million convention centre project of British-Iraqi businessman Nazmi Auchy, brother of Namir Auchy who was killed along with Iraqi diplomat Hikmat Hajo and six other people in Amman last Saturday. The incident has raised concern about the prospect of Mr. Auchy's pulling out his investments, in excess of \$150 million, the single largest of a private foreign investor in Jordan. The convention centre, the tallest complex in Amman, is designed to accommodate 1,500 people. Dismissing fears, Mr. Auchy told Reuters that at least for now there is no intention of freezing his growing activities in the Kingdom.

**FORGET ISOMETRICS:** The new sensation, so to speak, via Moscow is the development of polycrylimid, a water-based synthetic substance said to help put youth back into the cheeks and, yes, the breasts. For the vain and daring, the new material and procedure is the bounty of Moscow-based Jordanian doctor Anwar Saad. Dr. Saad, who conducts research at the Moscow Academy of Medical Sciences, says the high water content and non-toxic substances make polycrylimid a safe new way to cosmetic rejuvenation. It may be worth watching if RJ flights to Moscow suddenly pick up in seat factor.

Jennifer Hamarneh

## Keep it simple please

By Jean-Claude Elias

I WAS complaining, in a Chip Talk published a few months ago, of the excessive complexity of the both the machines and the computer programmes we use everyday. Hardware and software manufacturers want small computers to become truly personal and "to be in every office, on every desk."

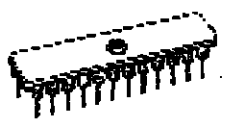
Surely, they don't expect every PC user to have a college degree in computer science or electronics. To be popular computers must be easy to use and trouble-free. We're not there yet. Any user of Windows operating system will tell you that the road to really user-friendly machines is a long and tortuous one.

As a partial answer to my prayer for simplicity, Opera Software, a Norwegian company has recently released an Internet browser — a programme to explore the Internet — that is fast, straightforward to install and use, and can honestly claim the user-friendly label.

Although the Opera browser has far less features and possibilities than its two giant rivals, Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator/Communicator, there seems to be a clear demand for such a simple piece of software.

Opera works with inexpensive hardware. A machine as basic as a 386 with only 4MB memory and a relatively slow modem (14.4 Kbps) will do. The size of the programme (about 1MB) is but a fraction of Explorer or Communicator. Opera does nothing but get you on the Internet and let you explore it.

## chip talk



without pretension or useless gadgetry, but it does it well and fast. Because of its small size it actually runs faster than its competitors. It even has one feature they don't have — it allows you to download data from several sites simultaneously.

Without any special promotional effort, Opera opens expect to reach a market share of 0.65 per cent of Internet browsers. This small percentage, however, represents a huge absolute value. It could also prove that Opera's designers are underestimating the market of their offspring.

Indeed, most home users, schools, universities and small offices may prefer a simple but easy to use and reliable programme to sophisticated but heavy ones. A large proportion of users admit using but a fraction of the numerous features and functions available in software like Communicator.

Opera's pioneering approach may lead other software designers, including maybe Microsoft themselves, to rethink their strategy and to listen for once to what PC users really want. This is true not only for Internet browsers but also for Windows, Word Processing, Data Base programmes, Operating Systems, etc. It is too early to rejoice, but if Opera's experience succeeds it could lead the whole software industry in a new direction. Complex, advanced programmes will always exist and will certainly continue being improved and beefed-up. Users, however, will have the choice between a heavy-weight piece of software and a simpler one.

## NETS subscribers debate the limits of their own debates

By Ahmed Naser  
Special to the Jordan Times

WELL KNOWN FOR its "spicy" content, Jordan's first electronic forum run by National Equipment and Technical Services (NETS), recently witnessed an impassioned debate that left many of its subscribers wondering about the boundaries between slander and critique.

Over the last two years, many of NETS' 2,700 subscribers participating in public conferences have continuously tested the limits drawn between personal attacks and critical debate.

A subscriber's message early this year pushed the debate to its limits. The subscriber, Wa'el Barghouti, expressed his opinion on several controversial issues, ranging from Jordan's attendance at the Turkish-Israeli military manoeuvres, to last year's parliamentary elections, the receiving of Judaism's Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lao in Egypt by Azhar University cleric Mohammad Sayed Tantawi, the closing down of 13 Jordanian weekly newspapers and Minister of Information Affairs Samir Mutawi's job performance.

Mr. Barghouti's message on the "Ask-the-Government" public bulletin board on Jan. 6 described Syria as the only "true Arab country" left in 1998, referred to an "anonymous" traitor "from our leaders" and changed Jordan's name to "Isra-ordan."

The Qatar-based Jordanian subscriber also described Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as "the most brazen, impudent and insignificant character for 97." He said the description also fit NETS' general manager, Marwan S. Juma.

Mr. Barghouti's account was indefinitely suspended following this episode

and a "series of warnings," as Mr. Juma said Mr. Barghouti had gone "overboard."

According to Paragraph E of Section II of NETS' Terms and Conditions, set in early 1996, "Subscribers are not allowed to publicly attack, under NETS' public conferences, any other subscribers or any Jordanian public figures." Mr. Barghouti's opinion of Mr. Juma was held as a "public attack."

The suspension of Mr. Barghouti's account raised several questions among other subscribers pertaining to democracy and freedom of speech in the Kingdom, the content of debates, NETS' policy and Mr. Barghouti's loyalty to Jordan.

If democracy and freedom of speech are considered a "privilege" then "we cannot call ourselves a democracy," wrote Rami Saffarini.

Acknowledging "a certain degree of freedom in Jordan," Marwan Hanania expanded on the previous comment saying Jordan "cannot brag about [its] democracy," if people are continuously reprimanded for their opinions.

When Inuran Khateeb wrote "opposition means being anti-country," he sparked the loyalty controversy. Mr. Khateeb said, "Many of the countries around us thrive on the fact that they can attack Jordan through...some Jordanians...who think they are nationalistic heroes...[by using] them as pawns."

In the end Mr. Khateeb contended that NETS users "simply do not know how to debate. We have to insult and abuse and shout, and most times we lose track of the issues."

Another subscriber was more direct in addressing Mr. Barghouti's comments. Omar Tabbaa told Mr. Barghouti point

blank. "[I]f you don't like democracy in Jordan, or the government... I advise you to leave the country."

Mr. Barghouti fired back. "[I]t is only national honour that comes to surface every time someone attacks Jordan or its policies...[I] try to attack my thoughts and ideas...[I]t does not suit you to be a guard at the Jordanian gate asking people to leave whenever you feel they're not being loyal to Jordan!"

Whether or not NETS intended "Ask The Government" to serve as a forum for debate, subscribers have been voicing their opinions continuously within the conference's digital boundaries since its establishment at the end of 1996. The conference was the first to have the government on-line in the Kingdom.

But cyber space, once occupied by former Minister of Information Marwan Musher, has been replaced by cyber void. As such, a number of subscribers have lamented the departure of the first on-line government spokesperson. Hadi Halazin even proposed renaming "Ask-the-Government" to "Where is the government?"

And as NETS users still persist, debating issues such as the recent slaying of eight people in Amman including an Iraqi diplomat and his wife, and the proposed adoption of the 1997 Cairo Declaration "as a form of peaceful protest against the inhuman sanctions imposed on the 'people' of Iraq," the government nowadays rarely posts any answers, limiting its contributions to a weekly Cabinet report posted from the Ministry of Information's NETS account.

Notwithstanding subscribers, Mr. Juma, in a message addressed to 'A Bet-

ter Jordan,' Jan. 15 described the current on-line situation as "disappointing!" In the same letter, Mr. Juma complained that he "fail[s] to find one single message sent over the past 10 days or more that has anything to do" with the conference. "Should every subject turn into a battlefield, with personal insults flying left[,] right and centre?" he asks. "Democracy does not mean anarchy. ... Does not give the right to personally insult each other," Mr. Juma stressed.

In the past, when Mr. Juma first joined NETS, as its general manager 'A Better Jordan,' which has had mentions in publications such as Newsweek, Business Week and the Jerusalem Report, was considered a platform for expressing opinions during its foundation period when only "a select few" could participate. Mr. Juma said he changed this exclusivity so that anyone with a subscription could type out his/her opinion for debate with other individuals on-line.

Later on, the debate forum was used to promote worthy causes. Recent examples were collections for contributions and solicitations for volunteers to an orphanage. "Charity Box" was established as a sub-conference within a 'A Better Jordan' to cater to future calls of a similar humanitarian nature.

Yet near the end, NETS offered a less harsh opinion of the '1997 characters' letter as its on-line commentator, E-Guide, refers to Mr. Barghouti's letter as a "Sign of Things to Come." Jan. 15 and wrote: "To be fair, Wa'el's character poll did generate a few serious, even insightful responses on the side. And if this tidal wave is a sign of things to come, we can look forward to an active year on NETS."

## Unicef

The United Nations Children's Fund, with headquarters in New York and Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa based in Amman, seeks qualified candidates for the following position:

**Senior Secretary  
to the Deputy Regional Director  
Duty Station: Amman, Jordan**

### Purpose of the Post:

To provide secretarial and administrative support to the Deputy Regional Director and coordinate the secretariat of the Programme Support Services and Emergency Section.

### Minimum Qualifications:

- First University Degree with major in English language or equivalent.
- Recognised secretarial course. Knowledge and experience with computer applications, management and electronic communications.
- Fluency in English and Arabic. Some knowledge of French desirable.
- Minimum five years of experience in office management in the capacity of Sr. Secretary.

### Skills and Attributes:

- Ability to draft correspondence with very good writing skills in English.
- Ability to organise, prioritise and manage the work of a high-level office.
- Good judgement, initiative and a high sense of responsibility.
- Ability to establish harmonious working relationship in an international and multi-cultural environment.

Please send detailed resume, in English, quoting reference GS/RO 98-02 to:

**Asst. Admin./Personnel Officer  
UNICEF Regional Office  
P.O. Box 840028, Amman - 11184, Jordan**

Applications for this position must be received by February 20, 1998. Acknowledgement will only be sent to short-listed candidates under serious consideration.

UNICEF is a smoke-free environment.

## Unicef

The United Nations Children's Fund, with headquarters in New York and Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa based in Amman, seeks qualified candidates for the following position:

**Executive Assistant  
to the Regional Director  
Duty Station: Amman, Jordan**

### Purpose of the Post:

To provide office management functions of the Regional Director's office, coordination and follow up on action points within the Regional Office and heads of country offices.

### Minimum Qualifications:

- First University Degree with major in English language or equivalent.
- Recognised secretarial course. Knowledge and experience with computer applications, management and electronic communications.
- Fluency in English and Arabic. Some knowledge of French desirable.
- Minimum five years of experience in office management in the capacity of Executive Assistant/Executive Secretary.

### Skills and Attributes:

- Ability to draft correspondence with very good writing skills in English.
- Ability to organise, prioritise and manage the work of a high-level office.
- Good judgement, initiative and a high sense of responsibility.
- Ability to establish harmonious working relationship in an international and multi-cultural environment.

Please send detailed resume, in English, quoting reference GS/98-01 to:

**Asst. Admin./Personnel Officer  
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Applications for this position must be received by February 20, 1998. Acknowledgement will only be sent to short-listed candidates under serious consideration.

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## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

## Ministry of Finance will not reduce customs tariffs to 30% as previously planned

**\*\* CONTRARY TO previous plans, the government will not reduce customs tariffs on all goods to 30 per cent, Finance Minister Suleiman Hafez has announced.** Noting that the economic adjustment programme can be amended, Mr. Hafez said the Ministry of Finance found that it cannot reduce customs tariffs on all goods at present, as planned in the programme which expires at the beginning of next year.

The minister indicated that the decision not to lower customs tariffs from 40 per cent to 30 per cent will be among the topics that Jordanian officials will discuss with a delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at a later date this year. The delegation was scheduled to arrive in Amman early next month but the visit was postponed. The delegation aims at conducting a review and an evaluation of the Jordanian economy which posted positive results last year.

The government decided to cut customs tariffs to 40 per cent last year in accordance with the economic adjustment programme which also stipulates that the customs tariffs be cut further to 30 per cent in early 1998.

Mr. Hafez revealed that the Ministry of Planning, on behalf of the government, has started to lay down the broad lines of a national comprehensive plan to replace the economic adjustment programme in order to boost various economic sectors. The plan, which will be in line with the five-year development plan, aims at lowering the rate of indebtedness and supporting the trade balance among other measures that would strengthen the foundations of the national economy (Al Aswat).

## Arab Bank regains full control of its subsidiary in Morocco

**\*\* THE ARAB Bank regained its 100 per cent ownership of Arab Bank/Morocco after purchasing the 50 per cent equity previously held by the Moroccan government.** The deal was concluded following negotiations that have been going on with Rabat since April 1997. The deal was a step in the privatisation process that the Moroccan government is implementing towards opening up its economy and attracting capital and investment from outside.

Another deal expected in the future is for the Arab Bank to regain a full control over the Arab Tunisian Bank in light of the other privatisation process being carried out by the Tunisian government (Al Arab Al Yawm).

## Middle East Investment Bank nears concluding deal with foreign investors

By Issam Qadmani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Middle East Investment Bank is about to conclude a JD10 million deal with the French Societe Generale Bank and a Lebanese partner, in a bid to increase its capital from JD10 million to JD20 million in implementation of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) instructions, the bank's board chairman, Ali Mango, said Wednesday.

## Department reminds non-residents to pay tax

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Income Tax Department (ITD) has reiterated that any amount of money paid to non-residents, and is sent abroad, is subject to a 10 per cent tax — as previously stipulated by the Income Tax Law, amended in 1996.

According to ITD Director General Mansur Haddadin, this comes as a reminder to those involved, "an awareness-raising statement that shows that the department is serious regarding the matter."

Jordanians are considered residents if they reside in the Kingdom for a period of 120 days every year. Non-Jordanians are regarded as residents if they reside in the Kingdom for a period of 183 days a year.

Those who have to pay the 10 per cent tax should submit an income assessment form to ITD, said Mr. Haddadin.

He added that a 1.5 per cent fine will be imposed on those who fail to pay on time.

Mr. Haddadin said a project to strengthen and upgrade the income tax system in Jordan is underway with a \$216,000 grant from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and \$530,000 from the government.

The project is aimed at introducing major changes in the processing and administration of income taxes, and encouraging adherence to the current income tax system, he said.

According to a UNDP statement published last year, because of limited manpower resources and inadequate computer hardware capacity of the ITD, it has been impossible for the government to ensure full compliance with existing tax legislation.

It added that income tax has contributed less than anticipated to the government's domestic revenues, hindering its ability to deliver public services such as health and education effectively.

A new computer hardware is now installed and works effectively in accessing relevant income data and monitoring taxpayer compliance, Mr. Haddadin said.

The UNDP statement said once formulated and put into operation, the new income tax administration is expected, by a conservative estimate, to result in an extra income tax revenue to the tune of more than \$100 million over the coming three to four years.

**TONIGHT**

**GALLERIA 1** **GALLERIA 2**

**ROMEO & JULIET** **JACK**

2:00 / 6:30 / 8:30 / 10:45

## REUTERS REUTERS

## The Business of Information

| Major Currencies & Cross Rates | Prices as at 21/01/98 19:45 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| US Dollar                      | 1.5263                      |
| DE Mark                        | 0.6143                      |
| GB Sterling                    | 0.4915                      |
| JP Yen                         | 0.0086                      |
| CA Dollar                      | 0.6143                      |
| IT Lira                        | 0.0000                      |
| NL Guilder                     | 0.0034                      |
| FR Franc                       | 0.0000                      |

| Middle Eastern Currencies | Prices as at 21/01/98 19:45 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| US Dollar                 | 1.5263                      |
| Jordan Dinar              | 0.7090                      |
| Saudi Riyal               | 0.2665                      |
| Bahraini Dinar            | 0.2665                      |
| Qatar Dinar               | 0.2665                      |
| Kuwait Dinar              | 0.2665                      |
| Emirati Dinar             | 0.2665                      |
| Lebanese L1000            | 0.0000                      |
| Egyptian                  | 0.2665                      |

| Mid-East Currencies | Prices as at 21/01/98 19:45 |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| US Dollar           | 1.5263                      |
| SA Riyal            | 0.2665                      |
| AE Dirham           | 0.2665                      |
| QW Dinar            | 0.2665                      |
| BH Dinar            | 0.2665                      |
| CY Pound            | 0.2665                      |

| Energy      | Prices as at 21/01/98 19:45 |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Oil         | 16.03                       |
| Gas         | 16.03                       |
| Coal        | 16.03                       |
| Electricity | 16.03                       |

| Metals          | Prices as at 21/01/98 19:45 |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Gold (oz's)     | 290.5                       |
| Silver (oz's)   | 8.91                        |
| Platinum (oz's) | 378.5                       |
| Al (3 Months)   | 1600                        |
| Cu (3 Months)   | 1718                        |
| Zinc (3 Months) | 1145                        |
| Lead (3 Months) | 529                         |
| Ni (3 Months)   | 5485                        |

| Main Equity Indices | Prices as at 21/01/98 19:45 |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| New York            | 7811.08                     |
| London              | 5727.3                      |
| Tokyo               | 16884.42                    |
| Paris               | 2886.11                     |
| Frankfurt           | 4282.84                     |

| Commodity      | Prices as at 21/01/98 19:45 |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Coffee (lb/50) | 183.5                       |
| Cocoa (lb/50)  | 183.5                       |
| Sugar (lb/50)  | 286.3                       |
| Wheat (lb/50)  | 0                           |
| Soy (lb/50)    | 25.65                       |
| Tea (lb/50)    | 180                         |
| Barley (lb/50) | 0                           |
| Rice (lb/50)   | 400                         |

| AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET           | Prices as at 21/01/98 19:45 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bank Sector                      | 127600                      |
| Insurance Sector                 | 127600                      |
| Industrial Sector                | 127600                      |
| Real Estate Sector               | 127600                      |
| Government Sector                | 127600                      |
| Private Sector                   | 127600                      |
| Public Sector                    | 127600                      |
| Foreign Sector                   | 127600                      |
| Local Sector                     | 127600                      |
| Export Sector                    | 127600                      |
| Import Sector                    | 127600                      |
| Service Sector                   | 127600                      |
| Manufacturing Sector             | 127600                      |
| Construction Sector              | 127600                      |
| Transport Sector                 | 127600                      |
| Communication Sector             | 127600                      |
| Health Sector                    | 127600                      |
| Education Sector                 | 127600                      |
| Recreation Sector                | 127600                      |
| Food Sector                      | 127600                      |
| Beverage Sector                  | 127600                      |
| Tobacco Sector                   | 127600                      |
| Textile Sector                   | 127600                      |
| Apparel Sector                   | 127600                      |
| Shoes Sector                     | 127600                      |
| Jewelry Sector                   | 127600                      |
| Art Sector                       | 127600                      |
| Collectibles Sector              | 127600                      |
| Real Estate Sector               | 127600                      |
| Financial Sector                 | 127600                      |
| Technology Sector                | 127600                      |
| Media Sector                     | 127600                      |
| Telecommunications Sector        | 127600                      |
| Utilities Sector                 | 127600                      |
| Energy Sector                    | 127600                      |
| Chemicals Sector                 | 127600                      |
| Pharmaceuticals Sector           | 127600                      |
| Biotechnology Sector             | 127600                      |
| Environmental Services Sector    | 127600                      |
| Security Services Sector         | 127600                      |
| Consulting Services Sector       | 127600                      |
| Advertising Services Sector      | 127600                      |
| Public Relations Sector          | 127600                      |
| Event Management Sector          | 127600                      |
| Facilities Management Sector     | 127600                      |
| IT Services Sector               | 127600                      |
| Software Development Sector      | 127600                      |
| Hardware Sales Sector            | 127600                      |
| Network Services Sector          | 127600                      |
| Cloud Services Sector            | 127600                      |
| Data Analytics Sector            | 127600                      |
| Artificial Intelligence Sector   | 127600                      |
| Blockchain Sector                | 127600                      |
| Cryptocurrency Sector            | 127600                      |
| Virtual Reality Sector           | 127600                      |
| Augmented Reality Sector         | 127600                      |
| Robotics Sector                  | 127600                      |
| Autonomous Vehicles Sector       | 127600                      |
| Space Exploration Sector         | 127600                      |
| Defense Sector                   | 127600                      |
| Aerospace Sector                 | 127600                      |
| Aviation Sector                  | 127600                      |
| Marine Sector                    | 127600                      |
| Automotive Sector                | 127600                      |
| Motorcycles Sector               | 127600                      |
| Trucks Sector                    | 127600                      |
| Heavy Equipment Sector           | 127600                      |
| Construction Equipment Sector    | 127600                      |
| Agricultural Equipment Sector    | 127600                      |
| Power Generation Sector          | 127600                      |
| Water Supply Sector              | 127600                      |
| Waste Management Sector          | 127600                      |
| Environmental Remediation Sector | 127600                      |
| Disaster Relief Sector           | 127600                      |
| Humanitarian Aid Sector          | 127600                      |
| Development Assistance Sector    | 127600                      |
| International Trade Sector       | 127600                      |
| Globalization Sector             | 127600                      |
| Free Trade Sector                | 127600                      |
| Customs Union Sector             | 127600                      |
| Regional Integration Sector      | 127600                      |
| Globalization Sector             | 127600                      |
| Free Trade Sector                | 127600                      |
| Customs Union Sector             | 127600                      |
| Regional Integration Sector      | 127600                      |

## JORDAN MARKETPLACE \*\*\* JORDAN MARKETPLACE \*\*\* JORDAN MARKETPLACE

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# Australian Open

## Venus rising as Sampras path to the final opens up

### Moya, Philippoussis crash out

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Venus Williams beat sister Serena to establish herself as the rising women's star at the Australian Open on Wednesday as the fall of two more men's seeds opened up Pete Sampras' path to the final.

Defending champion Sampras surged into the third round with a quickfire 6-2, 6-1, 6-2 win over Italy's Davide Sanguinetti. But 1997 finalist Carlos Moya and home hero Mark Philippoussis were beaten, taking the number of ousted men's seeds to six.

They were in the same section of the draw as Sampras, winner of two previous Australian Opens, who now will not meet another seed until the semi-finals.

Venus Williams, 17, triumphed over her 16-year-old sister 7-6, 6-1 in an 87-minute first professional battle between two of the women expected to dominate tennis for the next decade.

The much-awaited showdown ended with the Williams bowing together to centre court fans and walking off hand-in-hand. Venus saved her apology for the dressing room.

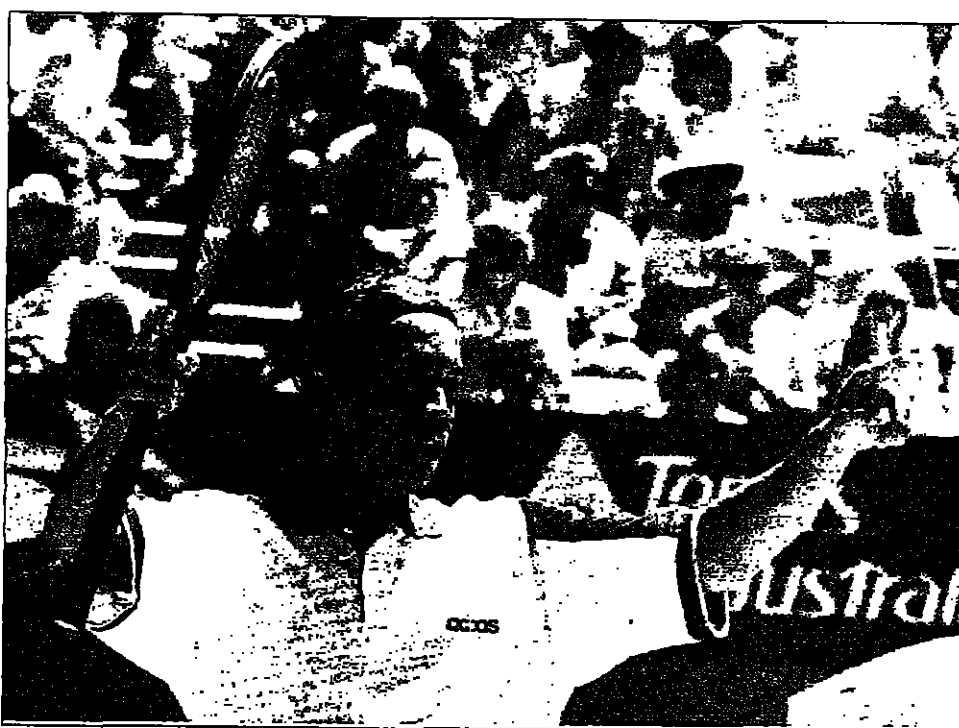
"I told her 'I am sorry to take you out. Let's make sure next time we play in a final and we can play for a title,'" Venus said.

"It was not funny eliminating my sister, but I have to be tough. 'Serena hates to lose and her reputation is that she doesn't lose to anyone twice. So I am definitely going to have to practice secretly if I want to win next time as well.'"

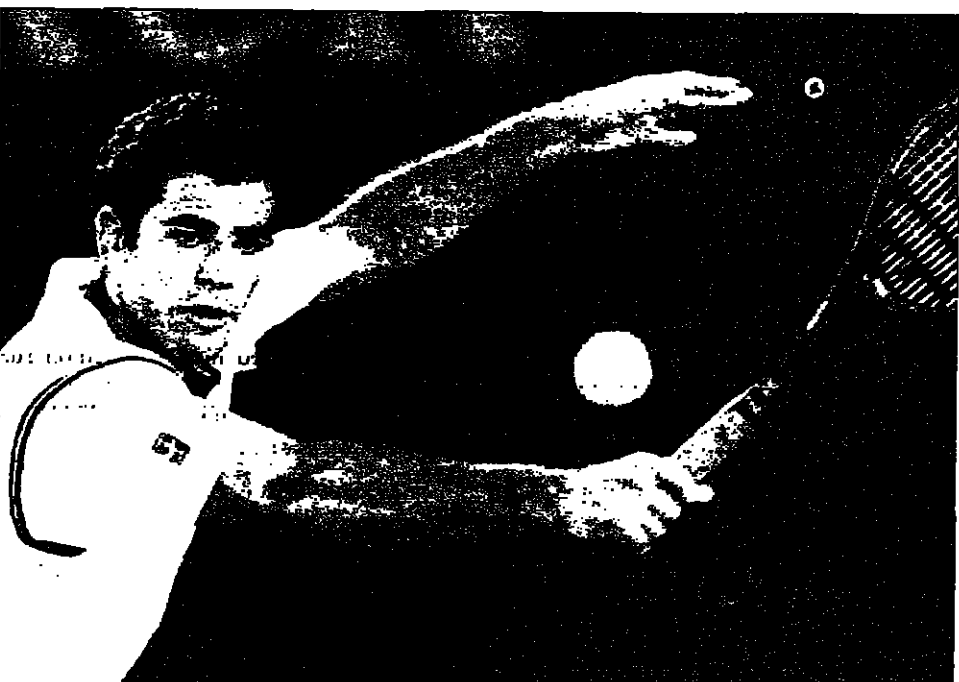
Despite the expectations, the match failed to reach any heights. There were eight breaks of serve in the first set and both grimaced and smashed their rackets to the ground in frustration.

"I have never had that many double faults in my life, not even when I was younger," Serena said.

Mirjana Lucic, the youngest player in professional tennis, lost 7-5, 6-4 to



Hicham Arazi of Morocco points to the crowd after defeating Mark Philippoussis of Australia during their second round match at the Australian Open in Melbourne January 21. Arazi defeated Philippoussis in five sets 1-6 6-2 4-6 6-1 9-7 (Reuters photo)



World No. 1 and defending champion Pete Sampras of the U.S. reaches for a backhand during his second round match against Italy's Davide Sanguinetti at the Australian Open in Melbourne January 21. Sampras won in straight sets 6-2 6-1 6-2 (Reuters photo)

No. 4 seed and fellow Croat, Iva Majoli. She hinted at a conspiracy against her when she accused the umpire of deliberately overruling line calls that were good.

"Every game there were balls in and they called them out. 'Everyone could see they were in,' said the 15-year-old.

"The chair umpire was

overruling everything. The lineperson called it good and the umpire called it out." Lucic estimated there were around 15 dubious calls and hinted that it could

be linked to legal action taken so she could play on the women's tour.

Majoli did not get involved in the row but said her young compatriot still had "a lot to learn."

Morocco's Hicham Arazi outgunned Australian 'Scud' Philippoussis, the 15th seed, 1-6, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, 9-7 in one of the performances of the day.

The diminutive Moroccan No. 1 surprised even himself by firing down 21 aces against 19 for Philippoussis, who was routed in front of his home-town fans.

But Australia discovered a new hero in Richard Fromberg who beat Spanish ace Moya 4-6, 6-4, 7-6, 6-4. Moya lost in last year's final to Sampras.

Moya, the fairy tale of last year's Open and the biggest casualty so far, crashed out in two hours 31 minutes and then said he would try to forget his outstanding 1997.

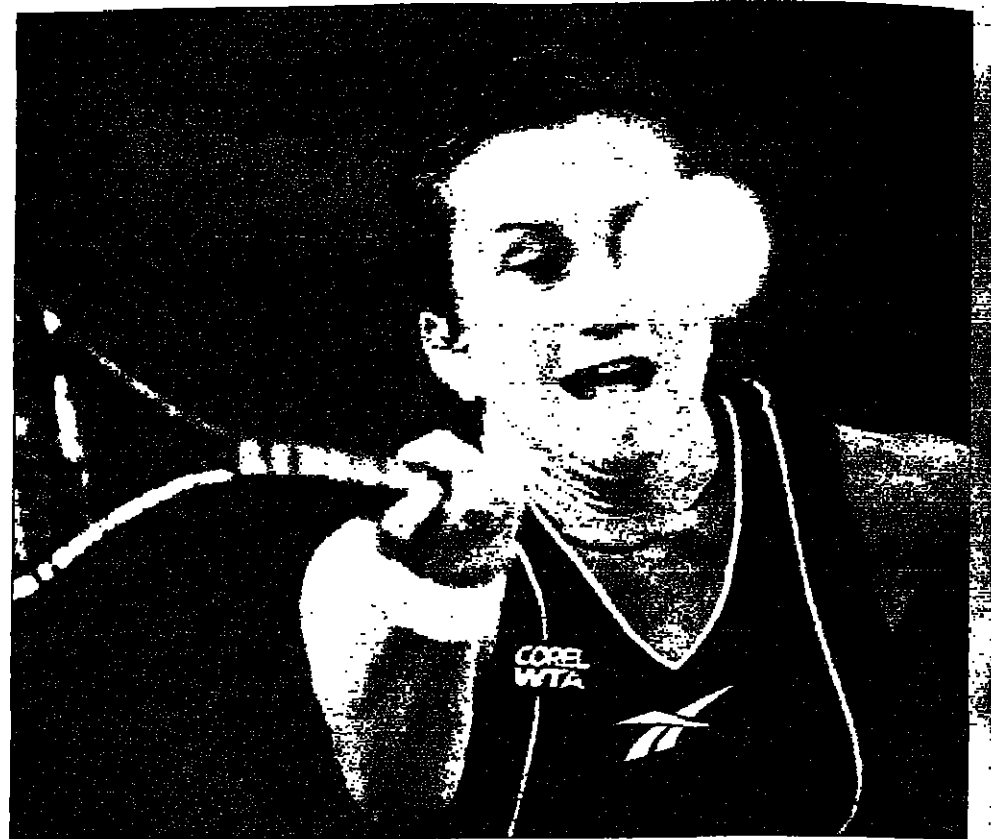
The Spaniard, who beat Boris Becker, Jonas Bjorkman and Michael Chang on the way to last year's Australian Open final, said: "I had great experiences last year but I want to forget it as soon as possible. Now I will have to live with my new ranking which will be 18 or 20."

Other top ranked players lived dangerously before getting through. Men's fourth seed Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden was two sets and a break down to Wayne Ferreira of South Africa but performed a great escape and won 6-7, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

But sixth seed Petr Korda of the Czech Republic beat Australian Scott Draper 7-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Women's second seed Lindsay Davenport of the United States saved six match points before knocking out Karina Habsudova of Slovakia, 2-6, 6-0, 9-7.

Eighth seed Conchita Martinez of Spain beat Miriam Oremans of the Netherlands and ninth seed Sandrine Testud of France downed German Jana Kandarr.



Croatia's Iva Majoli hits a forehand during her second round win over compatriot Mirjana Lucic at the Australian Open in Melbourne. Majoli won in straight sets 7-5 6-4 (Reuters photo)



Venus Williams (L) raises her sister Serena's hand as they salute the crowd following their second round match at the Australian Open in Melbourne January 21. Venus defeated her younger sister 7-6 6-1 (Reuters photo)



Petr Korda of the Czech Republic plays a backhand during his second round win over Australia's Scott Draper at the Australian Open in Melbourne January 21. Korda won in straight sets 7-6 6-3 6-3 (Reuters photo)

## Benarbia stunner holds Marseille

PARIS (AFP) — A stunning 25 yard freekick by Monaco playmaker Ali Benarbia sealed a 1-1 draw for 10 man Monaco against Marseille in the Riviera derby on Tuesday.

However, their draw meant they made no ground up on pacesetters Metz who were also held 1-1 by relegation strugglers Cannes — Metz lead Paris Saint Germain, who play Wednesday, by two points while Monaco are third four points in arrears with Marseille a further point behind.

The 29-year-old Benarbia brought the French champions, who had French defender Sylvain Legwinski sent off for a second bookable

offence in the 81st minute, a welcome point after they had lost two of their last three matches, and only scraped home 2-1 in extra-time over part-timers Dijon in a Cup match at the weekend.

The Algerian midfielder directed his freekick perfectly beyond Marseille's German keeper Andreas Kopke to equalise. Olivier Echouafni's 45th minute header for the 1993 European Cup winners. Marseille coach Roland Courbis said afterwards: "It's always tough to concede a goal three minutes from the end of a match through a 25-yard freekick against a side reduced to 10 men.

But we expected a

close match and I can't complain about my team's performance." Metz's French international Robert Pires, who is a target for English Premiership side Newcastle, gave his side a 41st minute lead with a header from Stephane Rondalere's cross.

However, Cannes, who are unbeaten in their last three league matches including a well deserved 1-0 win over Monaco, hit back strongly in the second-half but had to wait till four minutes from the end when Yao Senaya's cross was converted by David Mazzoncini.

## Juventus through to Italian Cup semis

TURIN (AFP) — Juventus booked their place in the Italian Cup semi-finals here on Tuesday night, after the champions ground out a 0-0 draw with Fiorentina.

The away goals rule saw the home side through after having rallied from 2-0 down to a 2-2 draw in Florence a fortnight ago.

Juventus had the lion's share of possession in a tense first half, while Fiorentina did little more than soak up the pressure. Filippo Inzaghi, who twice came close in the opening 45 minutes, then hit the crossbar within a few minutes of the re-start as the league champions continued to dictate the pace.

Fiorentina's new Brazilian striker making a promising full debut, Inzaghi should have opened the scoring in the 68th minute, but Fiorentina's reserve goalkeeper Valerio Fiori dived at the Juventus striker's feet to block the shot from point-blank range.

Ten minutes later, Inzaghi somehow failed to connect for a shot from just outside the six-yard box. And Juventus nearly paid dearly for the misses in the closing minutes.

Substitute Luis Oliveira galloped through on the break and fed the ball wide for Edmundo, only for Juventus' Uruguayan defender Paolo Montero to intercept just as the Brazilian was about to lash the ball home. Juventus now face either Lazio or AS Roma for a place in the final.

| TODAY AT | CINEMA TEL: 634144                                        | CINEMA TEL: 634144                                       | CINEMA TEL: 699238                                | CINEMA TEL: 677420                                                                                           | CINEMA TEL: 079 33430                   | CINEMA TEL: 179 33430          | Hisham Yanes Theatre TEL: 625155                                                  |
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|          | THE PEACEMAKER                                            | George Clooney<br>Nicole Kidman ... in<br>THE PEACEMAKER | SCREAM<br>Shows: 8:30, 10:30                      | Nadya Al Jundi, Ahmad Bedel<br>& Nahla Salameh... in<br>RIDING HIGH<br>Shows: 12:15, 2:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:30 | ABDOUN<br>ROBIN WILLIAMS ... IN<br>JACK | ABDOUN<br>ROME + JULIET        | THE GOVERNMENT<br>IN THE SERVICE<br>OF PEOPLE                                     |
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Newcastle United striker Alan Shearer (R) is tackled by Liverpool defender Phil Babb at Anfield, January 20. The match ended 1-0 to Liverpool with a goal from Michael Owen (Reuters photo)

## Owen's goal earns Liverpool win

LIVERPOOL (AFP) — Michael Owen's superb early goal earned Liverpool a 1-0 win over Newcastle here on Tuesday, propelling the Merseysiders up a place to third in the Premiership. The brilliant young striker chased Jason McAteer's pass before firing in a stunning drive off the underside of the bar for his 12th goal of the season.

While starlet Owen was on target, England striker Alan Shearer came off the bench for his second successive game as substitute after his return from injury. Even though Newcastle did have the ball in the net once in the first half, they badly need a fully fit Shearer.

This was the third meeting between the two in 23 days with Liverpool winning the first two. Liverpool manager Roy Evans said afterwards: "It was a hard game for us, not a classic, and we had to dig deep. And we showed we are capable of doing that."

Newcastle certainly put the pressure on and we had to stand up to it. Sometimes games are not about being able to play but about being able to dig deep. "It's important when you are 1-0 up not to concede one and we stood our ground." And on Owen's match winner, he added simply: "It was a great goal."

And victory by two clear goals would have put them in second spot in the Premiership ahead of Blackburn. Instead, Liverpool are level on points with Blackburn and five points behind Manchester United.

Newcastle were without the suspended Darren Peacock and David Barry and the injured pair Philippe Albert and Steve Howey.

John Barnes, playing his first game back at Anfield since his August free transfer, got a rousing reception from the Kop and a standing ovation from the fans who idolised him for a decade.

Liverpool were unchanged from the side that drew 0-0 at Leicester on Saturday. Michael Owen surviving a scare after picking up a leg injury in the Filbert Street clash.

Aaron Hughes came in to do the same man marking job he had at St James' Park in the recent League Cup tie, while the Georgies had Stuart Pearce in the centre of a back three.

Newcastle strung nine men across the park from the off, and were subjected to a fearsome barrage by Liverpool.

Dalglish's team barely got a touch in this deluge, and Liverpool created one glorious seventh minute chance.

Steve McManaman, the subject of more Barcelona transfer speculation on the eve of the game — denied by player and club — sent Paul Ince into the box.

The cross was met by Oyvind Lennardsen six yards out and Shaka Hislop produced a brilliant reflex save with Robbie Fowler putting the loose ball over the bar. But after 17 minutes Liverpool were deservedly ahead.

Ince lost possession with an ambitious backheel on the edge of the box. But he chased after Jon Dahl Tomasson and won it back with a fierce tackle. Although it was from behind, he took the ball cleanly with referee Graham Barber only feet away.

Jason McAteer fed the ball out to Owen, who chested it on and lashed home a stunning drive off the underside of the bar.

Newcastle started the second half bristling with intent and their fans were soon chanting for Shearer's introduction. They finally got their way after 60 minutes, with the England captain replacing Barnes.

Liverpool had a wonderful chance to make it 2-0 when Fowler fed McManaman on a flying break down the right. When the winger pulled the ball back for Fowler, he scooped the ball over from a great position.

Fowler was being goaded by "greedy" chants from the visiting fans and had generally looked out of touch.

Another Pearce freekick after 64 minutes flashed through the wall and keeper David James fumbled again, but this time he was able to retrieve the situation. Hislop saved well from a Levenharden drive and then Fowler cracked a shot off Steve Watson for corner after McManaman had set him up. From the flagkick Jamie Redknapp curled a 20-yarder over the angle. But Liverpool hung on for a deserved victory.

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## Sydney hosts biggest swim meet before Olympics

SYDNEY (AFP) — The biggest swimming meet in Sydney's history got off to a flying start Wednesday in what is seen here as a dummy run for the 2000 Olympics.

The 38 nations and 300 swimmers here for the two-day world cup shortcourse swimming series made it the biggest gathering ever for a short course meet and the biggest international prior to the 2000 Games.

There was no doubt many fans were here to see Michael Klim and Alexander Popov dual in a rematch of their long course world championship final and the pair didn't disappoint.

They went head to head in a closely fought 100m freestyle with the Russian pipping his training partner in a time of 47.46.

Klim, who has had to fight off hordes of screaming teenage fans since he won seven medals, including four gold, in Perth, was philosophical about his time of 47.69.

"I'm not too tired and I'm swimming pretty fast. I'm still enjoying it and I achieved what I wanted to achieve last week so losing here does not really worry me."

German powerhouse Mark Warnecke is another swimmer in prime form after demolishing the field in the 50m breaststroke. However, he was disappointed to only equal his own world record of 26.97.

## SCOREBOARD

|           |     |              |    |
|-----------|-----|--------------|----|
| NBA       |     |              |    |
| Atlanta   | 103 | Milwaukee    | 93 |
| Portland  | 86  | Cleveland    | 84 |
| Dallas    | 107 | Seattle      | 98 |
| Vancouver | 88  | Denver       | 77 |
| Phoenix   | 87  | Golden State | 69 |

|              |   |              |        |
|--------------|---|--------------|--------|
| NHL          |   |              |        |
| Pittsburgh   | 0 | Ottawa       | 0 (OT) |
| New Jersey   | 3 | Detroit      | 1      |
| NY Rangers   | 3 | St Louis     | 1      |
| Philadelphia | 3 | Buffalo      | 0      |
| Chicago      | 5 | NY Islanders | 2      |
| Edmonton     | 6 | Phoenix      | 2      |
| Los Angeles  | 4 | Calgary      | 3      |

|                 |   |               |   |
|-----------------|---|---------------|---|
| Scottish League |   |               |   |
| Second Division |   |               |   |
| Queen of South  | 0 | Stenhousemuir | 1 |

|                                   |   |            |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------|---|
| English FA Cup Third-round replay |   |            |   |
| Reading                           | 2 | Cheltenham | 1 |
| Third Division                    |   |            |   |
| Scarborough                       | 4 | Torquay    | 1 |
| Colchester                        | 2 | Cardiff    | 1 |
| Notts County                      | 1 | Hull       | 0 |
| Macclesfield                      | 2 | Scunthorpe | 0 |
| Exeter                            | 0 | Barnet     | 0 |

|                                                         |   |            |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---|------------|---|
| English Premiership                                     |   |            |   |
| Liverpool                                               | 1 | Newcastle  | 0 |
| Italian Cup                                             |   |            |   |
| Juventus                                                | 0 | Fiorentina | 0 |
| (2-2 on aggregate. Juventus qualify on away goals rule) |   |            |   |

## Sydney organisers increase drug-testing budget

SYDNEY (AFP) — Organisers of the Sydney 2000 Olympics said Tuesday they will increase their drug-testing budget following the furore over Chinese attempts to smuggle illegal growth hormones during the world swimming championships.

Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) chief executive Sandy Hollway said the move would allow blood tests to be administered for human growth hormones, if a reliable method of testing is discovered.

SOCOG now only budgets for urine tests, which cannot detect growth hormones.

"It is an expensive process but the money's got to be spent," he told Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio.

"It's probably more important than a number of other things." The move follows the banning of two Chinese team members for bringing 13 vials of undiluted growth hormones into the country during the world swimming championships in Perth earlier this month.

Four other Chinese swimmers tested positive for the banned substance Triamterene, a diuretic, which medical experts say is a masking agent for anabolic steroid use.

The doping scandal and the bureaucratic bumbling

that followed overshadowed the championships, something SOCOG officials are only too aware of. They are determined to prevent a repeat when the eyes of the world will be on Sydney.

SOCOG expects to do approximately 2,000 drug tests — at a cost of 800,000 Australian dollars (\$536,000) — during the Games, involving all medalists and some random tests.

"Unless there is integrity in the sports and confidence in the integrity, then the Olympics are nothing," Hollway said.

There is currently no fail-safe test for human growth hormone, or for erythropoietin (EPO), which increases red blood cells and occurs naturally in the body, making them difficult to detect.

But International Olympic Committee member Phil Cules said in Perth he was confident a reliable test would be in place by the 2000 Games.

"Research is being carried out. We are spending a lot of money funding experts around the world. We will achieve that target."

Hollway said SOCOG had budgeted to set up the infrastructure, the venues, the volunteers and the lab services to do urine tests for the Games but not for blood tests.

"The slight qualification now ... is that there is a lot of research being done on

the human growth hormone and a test for it.

"Without prejudging that research, if it turned out that a solution required the collection of blood samples that were in addition to the urine testing, then that would be a more expensive proposition and we are doing some contingency planning for that."

On another matter, Hollway said construction of the biggest stadium in Olympic history at Homebush, in Sydney's west, was on time and on budget.

He said a series of test events would be carried out in the lead-up to 2000 "to make sure systems from volunteer deployment to technology are functioning as they should."

"I think there's a lot of merit in our deliberately trying to put pressure on the system in advance of the pressure we'll hit at the Olympics."

The Olympic Park's Aquatic Centre will receive its first test this week when it hosts the World Cup shortcourse swimming meet, featuring 300 competitors from 40 countries. The 2000 Olympics will be staged from September 15 to October 1.

The 2000 Paralympic Games are scheduled to run from October 14 to October 24.

## Sainz wins Monte Carlo

MONACO (AFP) — Carlos Sainz, driving a Toyota Corolla WRC, won the Monte Carlo rally, first round in the world championship, on Wednesday.

The Spaniard's third win here, after his triumphs in 1991 and 1995, equaled the rally record of 21 world championship wins held by Finland's four-times world champion Juha Kankkunen.

Kankkunen, in a Ford Escort WRC, finished runner-up, ahead of Scotland's Colin McRae in a Subaru Impreza WRC.

Sainz took over the lead after dual world champion Tommi Makinen of Finland crashed on Tuesday's first special.

Makinen, just recovered from pneumonia, made the wrong choice of tyres and skidded on concealed ice.

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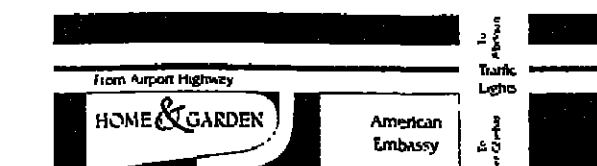
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|                |  |           |  |
|----------------|--|-----------|--|
| NORTH          |  |           |  |
| ♠ A 8          |  |           |  |
| ♥ A 4 3        |  |           |  |
| ♦ 10 9 5 3     |  |           |  |
| ♣ A J 6 2      |  |           |  |
| WEST           |  | EAST      |  |
| ♠ J 7 6 4      |  | ♠ Q 10 3  |  |
| ♥ 9            |  | ♥ Q J 6   |  |
| ♦ K Q J 6      |  | ♦ 8 7 4 2 |  |
| ♣ 10 8 5 3     |  | ♣ Q 9 4   |  |
| SOUTH          |  |           |  |
| ♠ K 9 5 2      |  |           |  |
| ♥ K 10 8 7 6 2 |  |           |  |
| ♦ A            |  |           |  |
| ♣ K 7          |  |           |  |

The bidding:  
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
1♠ Pass 1♥ Pass  
2♣ Pass 4NT Pass  
3♠ Pass 5♥ Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

South has two reasonable lines to land the six heart contract. What are they? Which of the two is superior?

While we are committed to the principle that opener is allowed to raise responder's major with only three-card support, that only holds true if opener has no better bid. With a stopper in every suit and a balanced hand we consider four

diamonds headed by 10 9 as a stopper in depth, we would prefer a rebid of one no trump by North. That would probably have made it much more difficult for North-South to reach the excellent heart slam, so who are we to quarrel with success?

After West leads the king of diamonds, what are declarer's chances?

One line is to hope that trumps divide evenly. Cash the two top hearts and, if both defenders follow, you can ruff a spade and concede only a spade trick. If trumps turn out to be 3-1 and you have a sure trump loser, you can still ruff a spade and need a successful club finesse to land your slam.

The other line is to draw only one round of trumps with the ace. If spades are 4-3, the slam is cold. You can ruff two spades in dummy and, even if a defender overruffs the fourth spade, the trump is your only loser. This line also succeeds if spades break 5-2 and the defender with the long spades also holds the three hearts or if West has the trump length. If the third spade is overruffed by East, and the table's last trump is drawn, you can still fall back on the club finesse.

Obviously, the second line is by far the stronger of the two.

## EMPLOYMENT OFFER

A prestigious institution is looking for a person for a position of trust. The candidate must have a good knowledge of both French and English.

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## Announcement

JTV

On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, Jordan Television is holding a contest for best logo design for this special occasion. The winning logo will be chosen by a committee from Jordan Television, and the winner will receive acknowledgment on television and also will receive a prize.

Contest requirements:

- 1- Colour design printed on A4 paper.
- 2- Story board for a Full animation sequence.

Designs to be delivered to Marketing & Commercial Advertising Department  
Jabal Amman - 2nd circle Tel # 642211 & 642212.

Deadline for receiving the designs is Feb. 15, 1993



## Forty-three die as Algeria carnage persists — papers

ALGIERS (R) — Forty-three people, including two old villagers unable to run fast enough to escape attacking gunmen, were killed in the latest violence reported by Algerian newspapers on Wednesday.

The reports on the fresh killings, one day after the end of a visit by European Union junior ministers to discuss the massacres, underscored the brutality of the conflict in Algeria.

More than 1,200 civilians have been killed in massacres, bombings and other attacks since the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan on Dec. 30.

The European Union's 24-hour fact-finding mission succeeded in opening a dialogue with the Algerian government but failed to gain permission for a United Nations human rights investigation into the massacres.

Nine civilians were killed in two bomb attacks in Algiers and the neighbouring coastal town of Zeralda on Tuesday, *Liberte* and *La Tribune* newspapers said.

The Zeralda bomb killed seven people, including two children, as it ripped through

a market in the town, 15 kilometres west of Algiers, said *Liberte*.

Two civilians died in another bomb blast on a bus about three hours earlier in the Ben Aknoun district in Algiers, said *La Tribune*.

More than 60 people were wounded in the two bomb attacks, the newspapers said. The authorities gave a toll of four dead and 52 wounded in the two bombings.

Attackers cut the throats of seven members of one family at Ben Adouan, a remote hamlet in the southwestern province of Saida, overnight Sunday-Monday, said *El Watan*.

The newspaper said the attackers were executing a *fatwa* [Islamic order] handed down by a local Islamist preacher named As Rafas Hadj, but gave no more details.

About 30 attackers cut the throats of two 60-year-old villagers in Zouabria hamlet in Chlef province, west of Algiers, overnight Monday-Tuesday, said *Liberte*.

The two victims could not run fast enough to keep up with fellow villagers fleeing the assailants, who also stole

the village cattle and looted houses, it said.

In Bouira province, east of Algiers, where at least 11 villagers were killed early this month, a deputy mayor was killed on Tuesday in the Aomar area, *Liberte* said but gave no details.

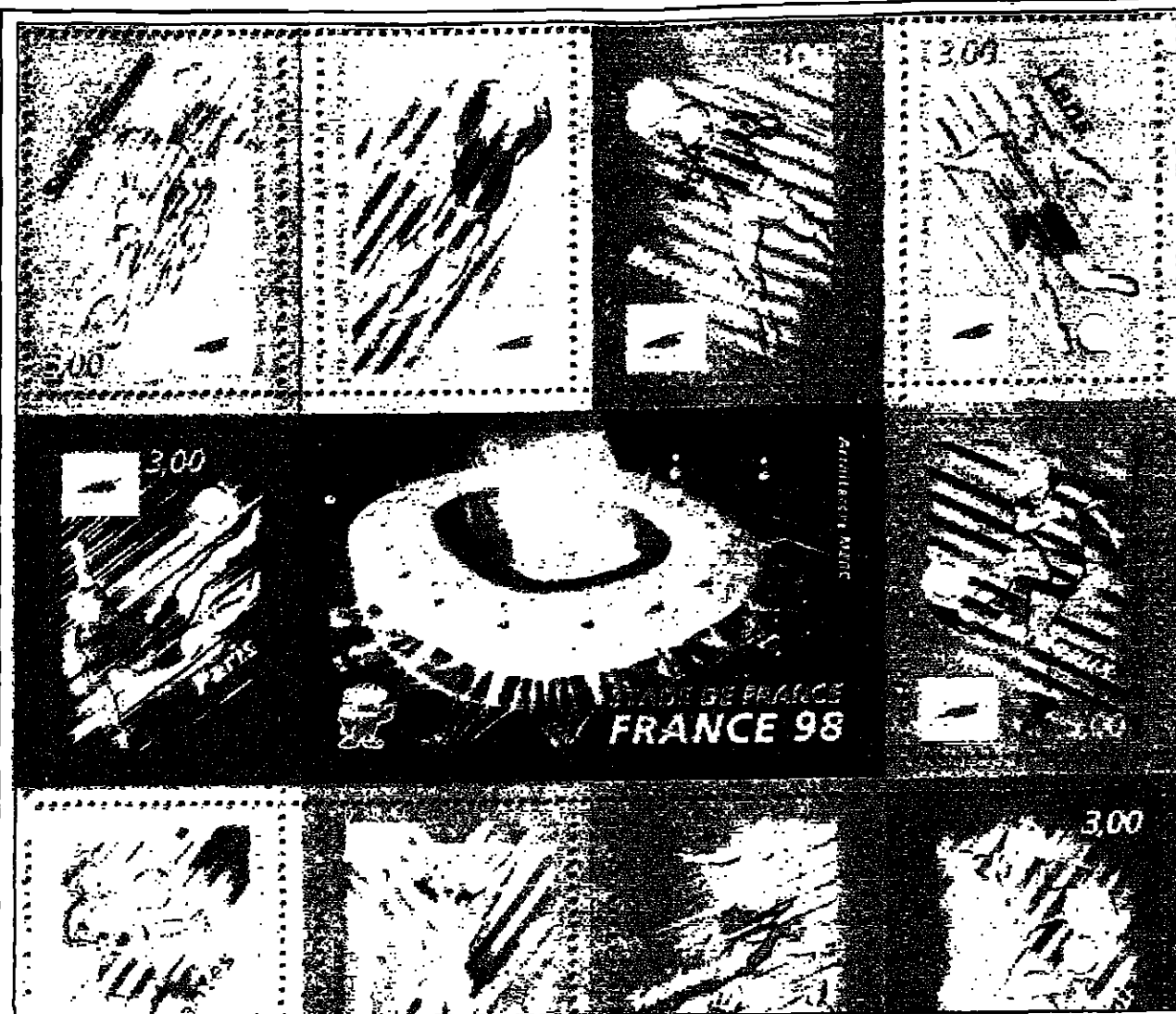
Troops hunting gunmen who carried out a massacre last week found the bodies of three girls who had been killed and mutilated near Beni Aissa mountain, about 25 kilometres south of Algiers, said *El Watan*.

The soldiers found the bodies by following a trail of fresh blood after killing 16 rebels in an attack on a rebel stronghold in Beni Aissa, it said.

The girls were among more than 20 women abducted by about 130 gunmen after the massacre of more than 100 villagers at Sidi Hamed hamlet, south of Algiers, a week ago, *El Watan* said.

Security forces clashed with gunmen in the working-class Belouizdad district of central Algiers, killing five of them, said *La Tribune*.

More than 65,000 people have been killed in Algeria's violence since early 1992.



WORLD CUP '98 STAMPS: French post presents Tuesday in Paris the 10 stamps for the upcoming 1998 World Soccer Cup scheduled all over France next June/July. The 3 French franc stamps (50 cents) represents clockwise: Paris, Saint-Etienne, Lyon, Montpellier, Lens, Bordeaux, Saint-Denis, Toulouse, Marseille, Nantes, and in the centre the Stade de France. The stamps designed by French artist Louis Briat will be on sale all over France in two days (AP photo)

## EU mission disappointed at Algeria's refusal to allow meetings with survivors, humanitarian aid

VIENNA (AFP) — Austria's junior foreign minister, a member of the European Union delegation to Algeria, expressed disappointment Wednesday at Algiers' refusal to allow the mission to meet massacre survivors.

Benita Ferrero-Waldner told reporters that the EU delegation was "very disappointed" that Algeria had declined all offers of humanitarian assistance after a fresh violence in the past three weeks claimed as many as 1,500 lives.

The main goal of the visit was to start a political dialogue with the Algerian government,

"and we succeeded," she said, adding that the delegation also had met with the legal opposition and publishers of the country's four largest newspapers.

"Unfortunately, we were unable to visit the injured or survivors from the various catastrophes. I really wanted to talk to children and women," Ms. Ferrero-Waldner said.

Algerian authorities "said this was impossible for security and scheduling reasons," she said.

Although Algiers refused to allow a U.N. special rapporteur on human rights to visit,

"the government is prepared to answer questions from the U.N. human rights commission," she said. "They say they have nothing to hide."

Algeria said it had no need of humanitarian assistance at this time, although such aid would have enabled Europeans to demonstrate their solidarity with Algerians, according to Ms. Ferrero-Waldner.

The delegation, which is to report on its mission on Jan. 26, also included the junior foreign ministers of Britain and Luxembourg, Derek Fatchett and Georges Wohlfart, accompanied by

European Commission Vice President Manuel Marín.

Their brief visit coincided with two murderous bomb attacks. A blast on a bus in the Algiers district of Ben Aknoun killed one person and injured 23, the government said.

A second blast, in the western coastal town of Zeralda, killed as many as seven and wounded dozens, independent newspapers reported Wednesday. The government put the toll at three dead and 30 wounded.

Algeria has said that Islamists were behind the violence.

## Pope on long-delayed journey 'to bless the people of Cuba'

HAVANA (AP) — Pope John Paul II, "messenger of truth and hope," set out Wednesday on a historic pilgrimage to Cuba, land of hardship, embattled faith and an ageing, struggling revolution.

Long delayed, much anticipated, the visit by the ailing pontiff to this Caribbean island may help set a new course for the Cuban church, if not for Fidel Castro's communist government.

Even before touching down here, Wednesday afternoon, John Paul addressed some contentious issues surrounding his visit, telling reporters on the papal plane he hoped for more respect for human rights in communist Cuba, and for a "change" in the U.S. economic embargo.

But no matter what else his visit brings, said Orquidea Mesa, one pious parishioner

here, "the Pope will bless the people of Cuba" — 11 million who for four decades have suffered through one of the world's longest-running political showdowns.

As the Pope flew across the Atlantic on Wednesday, Cuba's government worked non-stop to make Cuba's welcome a memorable one.

Havana workers had the afternoon off on a sunny 26-degrees Celsius day. In neighborhoods and workplaces, Cubans were organized to be bused to points along the Pope's route from the airport. The Cuban president himself, die-hard Marxist-Leninist, urged people to turn out for the island's first papal visit ever.

"Sure, I'll be down at 15th and Paseo to see him," postman Jorge Luis Jimenez, 30, said before his morning

rounds. "Everybody will be out, even the ones who aren't really believers."

Communist Party workers joined church volunteers in tacking the Pope's portrait and "messenger" slogan to palm trees, telephone poles and even the backs of bicycle cabs across town. One was even spotted on the national capitol, where Castro's revolutionaries once declared Cuba an atheist nation.

In an instant, Havana had become a city of startling contrasts — starkness of all the scene at the hallowed Plaza of the Revolution, where the papal procession route passed towering rival images of Christ and of revolutionary hero Che Guevara.

"Jesus Christ, in you I trust," declares the one, "Until victory, forever!" the other.

## Oil spill prompts UAE promise of action on Iraqi oil smuggling

DUBAI (AFP) — A new oil spill in the northern Gulf has driven the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to vow to crack down on Iraqi oil smuggling, and recognise a problem critics say it has long been turning a blind eye to.

A UAE minister acknowledged for the first time Sunday that "smuggling ... over the past few days has led to environmental catastrophe."

Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zayed Al Nahyan, minister of state for foreign affairs, was commenting on an oil spill which washed over most of the emirates' coastline two weeks ago when a barge carrying Iraqi oil in violation of U.N. sanctions against Baghdad went down in bad weather off Sharjah.

"Smuggling tarnishes the image and the prestige of the emirates," he told the official WAM news agency.

He said a special committee had been set up last year to confiscate smugglers' ships and sell their cargo, with the proceeds being paid to a special U.N. fund. Six vessels have already been confiscated, he said.

Warship commanders of the multinational force patrolling the Gulf had complained that ships intercepted with illegal Iraqi cargoes and diverted to UAE ports had been promptly released by the port authorities.

The smugglers' route takes

them from Iraq through Iranian national waters, according to the U.N. Iran has repeatedly denied the charges made by the U.N. Sanctions Committee and the United States over the past years.

Traders say that once the ships come abreast of Oman or the UAE, the cargo is transferred in international waters onto ships bound for the Indian subcontinent or onto barges headed for UAE ports where it is sold as Iranian oil.

Sheikh Hamdan's admission came as a clean-up operation continued along the coasts and on the islands off the northern Emirates, to limit the damage of an oil spill created by a barge which sank on Jan. 7 with 11,000 tons of crude oil.

The oil washed up on the coasts of four of the UAE's seven emirates, killing wildlife and forcing two desalination plants to temporarily suspend operation.

The oil slick, the second in six months, provoked public outrage. Newspapers, which have avoided printing stories about the UAE-based smugglers, angrily but cautiously denounced "those who seek only their own interests and high profits." When another barge carrying 5,000 tonnes of fuel began to leak and had to be towed into Sharjah, the UAE's federal assembly, an appointed consultative body, called on the government to

take measures against further spills.

And for the first time, coast-guard officials were willing to leak the name of the Iraqi businessman running the company which owned the barge and of its emirate sponsors.

Oil smuggling was already rumoured to be the cause of an oil spill in July, when a barge carrying 5,000 tonnes of diesel sank in heavy weather off Sharjah.

"Some ship owners are converting their cargo vessels into oil tankers to smuggle cheap fuel from Iraq. They claim it is Iranian petrol but many of them who were seized have confessed they were carrying Iraqi fuel," a coast-guard official from Ras Al Khaimah said.

Shipping sources explain that in order to cut their costs, brokers use ageing barges and load them beyond their normal capacity, making them highly vulnerable to heavy weather.

The rising concern over the rogue oil barges comes as the multi-national naval force imposing the embargo on Baghdad has seized a mounting number of ships seeking to smuggle Iraqi oil through the Gulf. "During the last 30 days, the multi-national force intercepted three boats, two carrying fuel and one diesel," a naval officer with the joint U.S., British and Canadian force told AFP.

## Khatami, Iraqi FM discuss improving post-war ties

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami and Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahhaf met here Wednesday to discuss obstacles that continue to block normalisation of ties nine years after their 1980-88 war.

Mr. Khatami expressed hope that with "good will on both sides, the problems will be resolved," the official IRNA news agency said.

Mr. Sahhaf, who arrived in Tehran late Friday, briefed Mr. Khatami on the situation in Iraq and the "progress in Iraqi-U.N. relations," IRNA said.

Those relations have been in crisis, with Iraq barring an American-led team of U.N. weapons inspectors from carrying out their work and refusing all inspectors access to presidential sites.

The Iraqi foreign minister had been due to leave Iran in a month, and no news conference has been arranged.

He has met only once since his arrival with his Iranian counterpart, Kamal Kharazi. Mr. Kharazi said last Thursday that Iraq was seeking Iranian support for a lifting of the economic sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

The two countries agreed Monday to set up two joint commissions to tackle obstacles to the normalisation of ties, one will look into the fate of prisoners of the war and search for those missing in action and the other will explore expanding trade and pilgrimage links.

## Turkish finance ministry to probe Welfare assets

ANKARA (R) — The Turkish cabinet has asked the finance ministry to investigate the assets of the Welfare Party, the first concrete step in carrying out a court ban on the Islamists.

"The cabinet has decided that the finance ministry will carry out the process of eliminating the Welfare Party's assets," the Wednesday edition of Turkey's official Gazette said.

The constitutional court on Friday banned Welfare on charges of threatening the secular constitution and threw veteran Islamist leader Necmettin Erbakan out of parliament.

The court ruling does not come into force until the court presents a full written verdict, expected in around two weeks. The party's assets will automatically be seized when the final verdict is released but

they first have to be assessed.

The attorney-general said last week that an initial legal probe revealed Welfare had hardly any registered assets despite its standing as the country's biggest party.

Mr. Erbakan, Turkey's first Islamist prime minister, was forced from power last year in an anti-Islamist campaign inspired by the secularist army.

The military-dominated national security council, which played a leading role in toppling Mr. Erbakan, is to hold a regular monthly meeting on Thursday. The Turkish press said the council would discuss the court ban.

Turkey's influential security apparatus has jailed Welfare mayors and shut down illegal Koranic courses since the Islamists fell from power.

The Sabah newspaper quoted Turkey's Interior Minister Murat Basoglu as saying the Islamist mayors of Istanbul and Ankara were among 223 local government officials under investigation, mostly for alleged improper use of office.

EU 'regrets' decision to ban Welfare

LONDON (AFP) — Britain, acting as European Union president, on Tuesday said it noted "with regret" the decision of the Turkish Constitutional Court to outlaw the Islamist Welfare Party. "The EU is concerned at the implications for democratic pluralism and freedom of expression and hopes that Turkey will make clear its continuing commitment to these fundamental democratic principles," said a spokesman.

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## Ciller facing new slush fund charges

ANKARA (AFP) — Former Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has been accused of taking money from a slush fund to pay Syrian special services to eliminate a Kurdish separatist leader, the daily *Radikal* reported Wednesday.

The newspaper said the allegations were contained in a report handed last week to Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz, which also disclosed the existence of underground ultra-nationalist groups used for several operations at home and abroad.

While premier in 1994, Ms. Ciller reportedly ordered a \$10 million payment to Syria's Mukhabarat intelligence service to "liquidate" the head of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), Abdullah Ocalan.

Mukhabarat failed to respect the terms of the agreement, however, and Mr. Ocalan escaped assassination, the report said.

Mr. Ocalan has lived in Damascus or in the Syrian-dominated Bekaa plain of Lebanon since the early 1990s. Turkish intelligence reports indicated.

The PKK began an armed rebellion against Ankara in 1984 in order to set up an independent Kurdish state in the southeast along the borders with Syria, Iraq and Iran. More than 28,000 people have died

in clashes. The latest report was related to the so-called Susurluk affair which came to light in November 1996 after a former ultra-nationalist militant and a high-ranking policeman were killed and a politician was injured in a road accident near Susurluk. The fact that the three were together was interpreted at the time as proof of close ties between the police, the mafia and some politicians.

Last Friday, a court began legal proceedings against Ms. Ciller for abuse of secret funds. If the National Assembly lifts Ms. Ciller's immunity, she would face trial before the constitutional court.

## Cindy Crawford and Chirac vie for Indian limelight

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Two figures will be competing for the Indian limelight this week. One will be selling a country, the other luxury watches. French President Jacques Chirac and supermodel Cindy Crawford could well run into each other. Chirac, on a three-day state visit, will fly to New Delhi for a Sunday meeting with political leaders at the Taj Palace Hotel — where Crawford is also staying. She is due to take part in a promotional event on Sunday night, feted by Indian personalities and politicians. "I wonder who gets the better turnout," a member of the press relations team behind the model's visit said.

## Hillary Clinton ignores case against husband by cleaning closets

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton says she's able to ignore the sexual harassment case against her husband by going to church and cleaning her closets. "You have to box it off because there's no way that you can let people... interfere with your life," Clinton said in an NBC radio interview. She noted that the couple attended church Sunday and said she distracted herself the rest of the day by cleaning out closets amongst other household tasks. "So, there's just a way in which we try and keep our lives as normal as possible despite what's going on around us," she concluded.

## Spice Girls fan's stereo seized for really annoying neighbours

CARDIFF (AFP) — A die-hard Spice Girls fan had his stereo seized by a court after annoying his neighbours by playing their hits 16 hours a day for months on end. James Evans, 24, became "the most hated man in the neighbourhood" by blasting out hits such as "Wannabe" and "Spice Up Your Life" at full volume. Other residents in the block of flats were often kept awake until 4:00 a.m. by non-stop music, a court heard. After complaints, noise control officers visited the next door flat at 2:00 a.m. and heard the Spice Girls so clearly through the wall that they could write down the lyrics, the court heard.

## Cantona brothers at comedy film festival

PARIS (AFP) — The footballing Cantona brothers will guest at this year's International Comedy Film Festival in the French Alps this week. Eric Cantona, who played notably for France and Manchester United before retiring last year, and his brother Joel, who played for Marseille, star in the short "Question d'honneur." The two have already appeared on the screen in the widely acclaimed film "Le Bonheur est dans le Pre."

## Swedish crown princess to study at Yale

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden is to study at Ivy League university Yale this term. Yale registrar Cathy Woods told Swedish commercial television TV3. "She is one of our special students," Woods said. The royal palace had announced that the 20-year-old crown princess had abandoned plans to study at Sweden's Uppsala University in favour of an undisclosed U.S. college. Palace spokeswoman Elisabeth Tarras-Wahlberg said the reason was "to give the crown princess the possibility to be left alone and carry out her studies undisturbed."

## Chinese man kidnapped in Yemen

SANAA (R) — Tribesmen have kidnapped a Chinese man in southern Yemen, security officials said on Wednesday.

They said the Chinese, the latest foreigner abducted in the poor Arab state, was kidnapped in the province of Abyan. His identity was not immediately known.

"There is no definite information if the man is a

diplomat at the Chinese embassy or an engineer with a construction company operating in the region," a security official said.

Chinese embassy officials were not available for comment.

Three South Koreans, including a woman and her daughter, were abducted in the capital Sanaa this month but released after four days.

Their captors had wanted to press authorities to execute four men convicted of raping a 10-year-old boy.

Kidnapping is a common ploy by Yemeni tribes with grievances against the government or foreign oil companies. More than a hundred foreigners have been taken hostage since 1992. Most were freed unharmed.